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Vol. XVII. No. 2.

FEBRUARY, 1902.

Price, Ten Cents

Prisons of the Nation and their Inmates

By CHARLES M. SKINNER,

Staff Correspondent of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

ILLUSTRATED

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, EAGLE BUILDING, BROOKLYN

Entered at the Brooklyn-New York Post Office as Second Class Matter. Vol. XVII, No. 2, of the Eagle Library.
Serial No. 61, February, 1902. Yearly Subscription, \$1.00. Almanac Number, 25 Cents.

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BROOKLYN-NEW YORK

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PRISONS OF THE NATION AND THEIR INMATES.

By CHARLES M. SKINNER,

Staff Correspondent of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle.

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Prisons of the Nation and Their Inmates.

The Offender.



HOW slenderly we balance between right and wrong! The momentary temptation, the sudden stroke of passion, the flash of an evil thought, the suggestion of a selfish motive, may turn us from the right forever. The human race has consented to separate itself from the brutes—most of us say “lift” when we speak of our departure from the ways of the creatures in the woods and fields, but if we have gained on them in many ways, how much lower we can fall than they, when we yield to the bad that is in us. And in the march of progress, how many willful lag-guards there are; how many, indeed, who seem to retrograde toward the brute condition! Even when the onward march is taken up, what cruelties and severities are practiced on those who will not fall in line, or who hold a different faith or different ways of proving the faith that is in them! It is a mystery, this persistence of evil, that we are not likely to solve while we stay in the flesh.

But while we may coddle theories and plead with offenders for reform, society has to take sharp measures, every now and then, to protect itself from the rebellious element. Howsoever merciful it may be with respect to the men and women who prey upon it, the law of self preservation is imperious. Life must be safeguarded at all cost, and property, under a system of individual ownership, is a support of life which must be guarded, too. The criminal must be restrained. But how? We have prisons and gallows, and electric chairs, and we have a vast and expensive machinery of courts, lawyers, police, constabulary, sheriffs, and what not, yet the criminal ceases not from his depredations. Has the balance in his case tipped so far to the wrong side of the scale that it is hopeless that it should ever tip the other way? Why not, then, start him in life on the moral side?

Can it be done? It is the greatest of

problems of society to-day. The consequence of the medium to be used for specie, of legislation to regulate the sale or abolition of merchandise, of agreements on taxation, of the change in national boundary lines, of party supremacy, is slight compared with that of permitting or denying the right



of abolishing crime, or, the criminal. Is the offender incorrigible? If he would burden the world all his days, has he the right to live? Has the professional, irredeemable rogue the right to reproduce his kind? Has he the right to liberty? Has he the right to demand that the law abiding public shall be forever assessed to keep him in the idle-

ness of a prison or an almshouse? Shall he alone, of all people, be absolved from the duty of useful labor and self support? Into these considerations policy enters, also sympathy. The criminal never had so few excuses as he has to-day. Education, which theoretically lifts us above the need of crime, is free for all; work is to be had by most of those who really want it and will look for it in the right places; charities were never so ample; there was never so much money in circulation as at present; many graces and comforts of life that, half a century ago, were only for the rich, are now at the behest of the laborer; the federation of the people in cities is closer, and they do more for themselves than ever before, gaining the benefits of schools, libraries, museums, art galleries, parks, hospitals, sanitation, even music, without price; the effort to carry health and light and air and understanding into the crowded districts was never so persistent. It is a good world and a good age; yet the malcontent is still abroad, stealing, outraging, beating, cheating, killing, drowning his alleged sorrows in alcohol, and, while drowned, refusing to work or behave himself, and neglecting his wife and children. Society has pleaded with him, it has punished him, it has made an outcast of him; but he will not stay cast out and he will not change.

PREVENTION MUST BEGIN EARLY.

At least, we say he will not change. Yet, as a matter of fact, he often does. In order that he may do so, society must begin with him while he is young. It is better to begin with his grandfather, before he is born, and by the time the otherwise offender arrives on the scene he will not be an offender at all, but an example of righteous living worthy to be embalmed in a Sunday school book. As we cannot catch the grandfather, however, that worthy having eluded human vigilance in the grave or the penitentiary, we must begin with the scamp as early as possible. And if we could begin with all scamps when they are 2 or 3 years old there would be so few scamps left that the world would be stupidly righteous and the daily papers could not publish more than four page editions, even on Sundays; for, in a wholly virtuous world, there would be no criminals, no prisoners, no police scandals, no aldermen, no heart breaking delays of



A SHOPLIFTER



A FORGER

courts, no executions, and the lawyers would all be dead of starvation, or something.

Society is beginning to realize that fact. For the criminal is usually the product of environment, and if society can improve his environment it can reduce the number of its plagues. Take two boys of exactly the same character and put one into a tenement, where he will be a witness of drunkenness every day, where he will hear profanity and obscenity as common talk of men, women and children alike, where petty thieving is regarded as clever and amusing, where men beat their wives, and wives take it out on their children, and children beat the weaker youngsters in the street, where the police are looked upon as persecutors, where there is dirt, darkness, filth, disorder, evil cooking; where girls lapse easily into lives of sin, where murders are committed for the price of a pail of beer, where all that is to be prized in life of peace and beauty and refinement are unknown, and what will be the result? Un-

less a miracle happens, the boy will take his moral color from his associates. He will join a street gang, he will depredate on apple stands and groceries, he will not work when he can horrow and beg, he will become adept in thieving, he will be arrested for fighting and disorder on the streets, he will become acquainted with police stations, jails, reformatories and prisons, and, unless he experiences some great awakening, which becomes less and less probable and possible every year of his life, he will in time become an habitual criminal and will end his worse than worthless days behind the bars.

BAD HABITS EASIEST FORMED.

Meantime, what of the other, who has been placed in a good home, among clean, honest people, who are just and temperate in their dealings, kindly and considerate toward every one, who have books and pictures and music; who, if they do not attend church are as moral as if they did, whose amusements are wholesome, who have an abhorrence of filth and meanness and vice; who, because they have enough to wear and to eat are never tempted to break the laws, who encourage schools and institutions for the education and bettering of the people—will he, also, escape the effects of his environment? Oddly, he is more apt to than the other, for while the child of the slums may not see many high class people, the boy of good family is certain to meet with any number of little sinners: meet them in school and on the streets and in his play. Yet, all things considered, he will become as his parents or guardians have been, and will grow into useful and respectable citizenship. The bad boy in a good family is more likely to turn out well than the good boy in a bad family. It takes ten days to form a bad habit, and ten years to form a good one.

In the present form of society the wholesale reformation of the part of the human race that needs it is the only cure for crime, and it is undertaking too big a contract for our means to lift the masses that furnish the larger number of criminals. Let not the mistake be made, however, of supposing that honesty and virtue are inconsistent with lowly life in the cities. While four-fifths of the crime comes from the tenements, yet there are hundreds of thousands of dwell-

lers among them who remain unspoiled. The tenement as an institution is bad; there is no doubt on that point; but the individual family that lives in it can preserve its moral autonomy and bring up its children in honor. The mass of men are good, and of women, better. The tenement has its virtues of domestic fidelity, industry, courage, yes, and of modesty and intelligence. Its views on wrong doing are pronounced and its measures against it prompt and severe.

The concrete moral force that the young offender dreads is the policeman. To him the man in blue and buttons is a genius of malignity. If he is some kind of a boy he seems hardly to understand that the policeman can be anything other than an oppressor, or that law is anything more or less than a device of the prosperous to harry the people who do not enjoy prosperity. And when he lives in a crowded tenement the boy's hesitations are such as to entitle him to sympathy. He has no play room except the street, and the policeman chases him if he sees him playing there. He has no yard, except the roof, and when he goes up there and innocently casts pebbles on the heads of pedestrians, the policeman likewise pursues him. Grown folks can lounge before the saloons, but when he pauses there, the policeman smites his legs and tells him to move on. He knows men in his ward who grow rich without work, through being elected as aldermen, yet if he tries to annex so much as an apple from the stand on the street corner, the policeman, who wants those apples himself, chases him away with a ferocious brandishing of clubs and terrifying scowls and outcries. So he hates the policeman and believes that he stands for partiality and injustice.

REGARDING THE POWERS THAT RULE.

Yet, all too soon, he learns to know the power that is vested in the man with the buttons, even as the man in buttons learns to know the power that the boy and his band may wield; for more than one officer has come to his death from the revengeful assaults of a "growler gang." And the criminal's awakening to the attitude of society toward his offenses generally comes in a police station. It seems as if everybody should know what a police station is, but it appears from various evidence that such is not the case. A station, then, is the office of a precinct, and cities are arbitrarily divided into precincts, each in charge of a captain and each containing its quota of officers, which, in times of peace are enough for local needs, but which in times of riot or calamity may be reinforced by drafts from other precincts. Commonly the station is a brick building, of no pretension to beauty, and for sanitary reasons is as bare within as without. Officers who are on duty sleep here, and the captain has not only his private office but his bedroom. In the basement or in an annex are the cells where prisoners are detained until the sitting of the magistrate's court, somewhere near, in the morning. They are usually taken to this court in the vehicle known—according to its color—as the black maria or the white maria, and the same wagon takes them to jail or the penitentiary after they have received sentence. Not only are criminals gathered during the night, but insane persons, men too merry for self identification, people that have fallen ill and are suspected of worse, and lost children, bawling vainly for mothers and fathers who have never taught them to repeat the number and the street wherein they live, nor even to know their family names.

ACHIEVING THE HONOR OF ARREST.

It is midnight and the sergeant is half dozing at his desk, his cap pulled over his eyes, his big hook open on the table before him, a couple of bright gas jets flaring on either side of it, and all but two or three of his men asleep. A witch-like creature is shrieking evil names at intervals from the cell to which she was consigned a while ago. Two or three "drunks" are slumbering heavily in other cells and a burglar, caught in the act, is making the best of it and has lain him down to rest till morning. The door opens and a big policeman enters, dragging and pushing a youngster of 13 or 14 in a shabby suit, tousled hair, unwiped nose, broken shoes and a horribly dirty shirt. He has been trying to cry and has been spitting on his knuckles before rubbing them into his eyes, in order to make it seem as if he had been shedding tears. He is a little frightened, but he is not able to do much weeping. It would hardly be the thing to confess to such weakness after he regains his liberty. For after he returns to his family he will feel a pride in having been wicked enough to get himself arrested. Quite possibly he will brag of it and will be pointed out by smaller children as an illustrious example. He has been looting a fruit shop and has been caught at it.

The doorman appears after the boy's name, age and address have been entered on the blotter and conducts him to one of the cells, a whitewashed room of stone containing a bed and a bucket, the bed consisting of three planks. There is an odor of carbolic acid roundabout and surface indications on the occupants of the place prove it is needed. Bright lights glare in at the gratings, so that when a prisoner tries to cut his way out he is seen doing it, and his files and implements are taken away, supposing that he has been smart enough to conceal them from the men who searched him. It is a tedious place, is a police station, and all the adventure there is in being arrested and confined seems not worth the while when our young offender has been there a couple of hours. He has a healthy appetite for sleep and he presently stretches himself on the hard, dirty boards, with his cap for a pillow, and forgets his surroundings. In the morning the doorman rouses him and he has a bite of bread and a cup of conee. After that he is to put into the black maria, with a company as ragged, as unwashed, as dejected, as ill fed as himself, and presently debarks before the court, and is conducted by an officer to the "cage" upstairs, where he awaits hearing and sentence, and he goes hence to liberty or punishment.

If the judge is some kind of a magistrate the boy's career in crime begins from that hour, for too many of the men who have got themselves put into the lower courts are unable to discriminate between offenses and offenders, and visit on the criminal by accident the same punishment as would be imposed on the criminal by intention. The boy is usually a criminal by mistake—mistake of birth and association; mistake of understanding and ideals. There should never be a commitment of a child to a jail or penitentiary. His place is in a reformatory, and if he proves to be an irredeemable rascal, like the boy murderer with a white eye, who is somewhat too celebrated in the criminal annals of Massachusetts, he should be sent into lifelong retirement in an asylum, for it is not safe to set him at liberty. He



should never have been born, and it is a question which the scientists have discussed timidly if he should not be killed, just as we kill mad dogs and rampageous microbes.

MORAL EFFECT OF PRISONS IS EVIL.

If he is a normal boy, with only the usual allowance of sin—which is a plenty in any case—he is not a candidate for association with old and experienced scamps, even if they were bashful as to instructing him in what he did not already know about mischief. The moral effect of such imprisonment is evil, for he is led to consider himself an equal and associate of men who were by nature and achievement worse than he. If he is sensitive, this is the worst part of his punishment, but as sensitiveness is more likely to be one of his most conspicuous lacks, he is too apt to take pride in the association, for it puts him on equality with experts in crime and, therefore, it flatters his shallow egotism. Criminals are self-conceited, as a class, and it is that very self-importance that makes it hard to teach them, since a person who thinks himself one of the most important people in the world will not put forth much effort to make himself different.

If the judge is wise, properly sympathetic, and has the understanding of human nature that fits him to be a judge, he will not send the boy to a prison but return him to his parents, to be spanked. If the parents refuse him he should go to a reformatory, and the milder the rule in that reformatory the better. The institution will then begin the work that should have been done before the boy got into trouble and if he is fairly intelligent and tractable it will make a man of him, instead of a burden and a nuisance. Should the boy be sent to a prison he will be photographed, not, as would be the case if we had a scientific system of dealing with criminals, or, indeed, any system at all, for the purpose of arriving at a better understanding of the physiognomy, physiology and psychology of the criminal, therefore coming to a better result in his treatment, but merely that he may be the sooner caught in case he runs away, or in case he is wanted for another offense after his release. The photograph goes into the rogues' gallery,



which is for the view of any concerned, and which has afforded a means of identifying hundreds of men who might otherwise have escaped. For the fact of being represented in the collection is in itself a damning circumstance and may fasten upon even an innocent man a belief on the part of the detectives in his guilt.

IDENTIFICATION BY MEASURE SUREST.

Odd as it may seem, the measurements, originally devised, not for criminal identification, but to keep tabs on the soldiers in the French army and prevent the enlistment in it of German spies, is of more use than the photograph. A man's appearance changes with years, especially after years of a well spent life, and he can, moreover, disguise himself by growing long hair and whiskers, but his measurements will vary little, making due allowance, of course, for natural growth in the case of the young. In all the prisons there is a large cabinet, re-

sembling a card catalogue, in which these measurements are arranged in such divisions that, given the mere fact of a large head or a small head, to begin with, the suspect can be identified and his previous record obtained in five minutes, and more generally in two, if he is on the bad books at all.

After the photograph has been taken—and it is useless in these days of swift picture making for the sitter to make faces and thereby try to disguise himself, as he sometimes persists in doing, for he never knows exactly when the button has been pressed—the young offender is sent to the bath tub and there he is washed, possibly for the first time in years. Then he is put into a prison suit, the rules of the place are read to him, and he is assigned to a cell which it may not be his good fortune to leave in years.

The young offender has more chances for

drunkenness, truancy, crap playing, assault, throwing stones and other malicious mischief. There were 3 arrests for attempted suicide, 3 for arson and 2 for murder. In the same time there were 780 cases against adults for the abuse and neglect of children. In the whole city of New York, including all boroughs, there were 45,160 arrests, of which number 1,433 were of children. Owing to the efforts of this society the age of consent was advanced from 10 years, in 1880, to 18, in 1892; yet there has been a diminution in the number of cases of assault.

HOW CHILDREN REFORM PARENTS.

The Brooklyn society has a well appointed building on a quiet street containing bedrooms, bathrooms, diningrooms and playrooms, and here the children are cared for, pending their dispo-

to that of the gangs which have arisen in the cities as a result of depriving the children of play grounds and of being driven from place to place by the neighbors and the police, and more especially to baneful home influences and the examples set by elders. Crap playing and minor offenses, he thinks, are due to a lack of realizing sense in their wrongness. Says he: "I would make a law to punish parents for the wrong doing of a child. A while ago a boy was arrested here for firing at a man who had tried to prevent his stealing. The boy was the son of well to do people, and he had no excuse for stealing. They knew that he had carried a revolver for a year. He was the best dressed boy that had been arrested here for some time. Now, the fault in a case like that is distinctly the fault of the parents."



escape from these evils than ever before. His youth has become a partial protection to him. The well known Gerry Society of New York has now a counterpart in the leading cities of the country, and the cities of other countries are studying their methods. The Brooklyn Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children may be taken as an example of these beneficent institutions. This has a wider range and function than its name implies, for it is a force in reformation as well as in rescue. Last year it dealt with 1,685 cases, and of these a hundred were of children accused of burglary. All of the cases were of children of 16 years and less. The boys and girls had been accused of theft,

sition in homes and asylums, or their restoration to their parents, or to their commitment, in rare instances, to reformatories. Part of the good work of the society is to reform the parents through the children. A boy who returns to a mean home with his face washed and his clothing whole and his shoes blacked may be a surprise to his parents, but he is not an unwelcome surprise, and the groggy father and the slatternly mother are not unlikely to try to live up to him, for a while. The superintendent of the society, Mr. Wilkin, ascribes some of the mischievous tendencies of the youngsters to evil companionship, especially

FAVORITE CRIMES IN VARIOUS CITIES.

It would be a valuable and instructive work to secure from the various American cities not merely official but scientific accounts of their misdoing. Official reports do not present the true state of the case, because the moral standards of communities and of police and courts vary, and there are differences in the laws and the method of their administration. In Chicago, for instance, the form of robbery known as the hold-up is one of the recognized institutions of the place. The penalty for it is slight, and there is no possible doubt that the police, now thoroughly corrupted by

politics, wink at it, if they do not divide profits with the highwaymen. In London there was once a prevalence of garroting, and it was not safe for any citizen to go abroad at night; but after the lash had been authorized as a punishment this crime passed into local history and has never been practiced there since. If street robbery were not a source of revenue for somebody beside the robbers it could be and would be broken up in Chicago in forty-eight hours. In New York, under Tammany, money in some cases and political pull in others secure immunity for many forms of vice and make it safe for hundreds of men and women to break the law. In those cities where gambling is licensed there are no arrests for that cause. In many Prohibition districts an indirect license is paid by saloon keepers in the form of fines, it being the local custom to arrest them once a week or even once a day. These matters being considered, it is obvious that no accurate and comparative table of social conditions can be based upon police returns alone.

But, taking the police reports, it is found that, averaging our American cities, less than six persons in a hundred are arrested in the course of a year, and this is not as bad as it sounds, for many "rounders" are arrested repeatedly for drunkenness and vagrancy. Contrary to the general belief, the smaller cities lead the greater in apparent wickedness, but this showing is a partial result of better policing. In Chicago, for example, the town is overrun by bummers and tramps because the arrests for vagrancy are practically nothing, while in some of the Western cities the police keep the "panhandler" moving and housekeepers are not subjected to the daily annoyance of answering demands for free meals at the front door.

CRIME MOST PREVALENT IN SOUTH.

In actual crimes—murders, assaults, robberies and forgeries—the Southern cities are in the lead. Florida is a bad state; Savannah is the most wicked city in America in respect of serious offenses, though Atlanta shows a higher proportion of arrests, mainly for drunkenness and disorder, however; Norfolk, Va., has to arrest every sixth or seventh member of its population during the year and Lexington, Ky., has 112 offenders to the thou-

sand in its 26,000 population. New York is apparently more moral than Chicago, and three times as many people are taken into custody in the latter city on charges of disorderly conduct, as in New York, but the cost of going through the form of protecting New York is half as great again as in Chicago.

It is a comfort to be told that New York is better behaved than Liverpool, Dublin or

a table prepared by Magistrate Deuel of New York.

In this country we run to crimes of violence and in the old world there is a preponderance of crimes against property. We have the more murderers and assailants, and the more rowdies and street fighters, while Europe has the more petty thieving and swindling and picking of pockets. Our problem is, therefore, the more difficult and it results in part



A CANDIDATE FOR THE ROGUES' GALLERY.

Glasgow, though not so good as Montreal or London. If it were not for its fondness for drink Woonsocket, R. I., would be one of the best towns in the United States, though it is a mill town and has a large foreign population. As it is, the best cities in this country are Alleghany, Pa.; Tacoma, Wash., and Dubuque, Ia. These figures are according to

from conditions that cannot be so readily changed as they may be in Europe, where the law-making power is vested, not in the masses, but in the classes. But in this very fact there is a warrant of ampler justice and higher mercy toward the offender. Reform, not punishment, must be the word for the future.

Florida Convict Camps.



SIDE from his immoral aspect, the community has to consider the criminal from an economic standpoint. He is not merely troublesome, but expensive. Generally he is a drag on the people. Not only does he take continually and give nothing back, when free, but in captivity he requires to be supported. And servitude is not the normal, but the necessary condition of him. As a violator of the social compact, he ceases to be of the state. As one in but not of the state he becomes its ward. As its ward he must be fed and clothed, at least, if not educated and made immune against certain forms of temptation.

In order that he may be supported and taught it is customary to assess the moral members of society, and his bill against the state is a pretty penny in the lump sum, which includes not only his stealings, his fires and the injuries he inflicts, but his big stone house with iron doors and its many servitors. The cost to the country is not less than \$200,000,000 a year, and in the City of New York the annual assessment is \$6 on every citizen.

Where the labor unions have not prevented it, society has made the criminal pay his own bills. In most countries and in most of the states, he works at some manner of trade or occupation, and even when there is no money return from his industry, it is best for his mind, body and morals that he shall not idle away his time. Hence, he works, though it be only at a treadmill, as in England, or in breaking stone, as in many other places. For breaking stone is better than breaking hearts, and picking oakum is better than picking locks.

In the South, where the people are beginning to show a keenness for money that is not surpassed in the North, but where, as yet, capital is not gathered into such immense and usable sums as in the Central and Eastern states, a new policy has been adopted, with regard to the offender. He is generally a negro, hence he is sent back to slavery. He is sold to a farmer, a distiller, a miner, a manufacturer, for a term of years, and his employer pays considerably less to the state than he would otherwise lay out in wages. The state is absolutely rid of the rebel against its order and safety, and not a cent

is levied against the community for their support.

So popular has this form become of disposing of the criminal, that it has spread from Florida and Georgia through Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Texas, and other states are likely to follow their example. Instead of inviting the contractor to go to the prison and take charge of inmates, the prisoners go to the contractor and he becomes responsible for their keeping. This total abrogation of interest on the part of the state resulted at first in tyranny and ill-treatment, nor are ideal conditions yet attained, but to the taxpayer the surplus at the end of the year, in place of a deficit, is a powerful argument, and any departure from the new order would now meet with opposition.

LEASING SYSTEM NOT SATISFACTORY.

Those who have studied the matter agree that the leasing of convicts is the best possible thing for the state, but they are not unanimous, and are less positive when they are asked if it is best for the criminal. Some of the state officials themselves believe that, in the end, the system is bad, because it does not check crime so firmly as does the older form of imprisonment, and one inspector in Alabama declares that, as a result of his investigations, he believes in a complete reversal. He would go back to the old system of solitary confinement in cells. There, he maintains, the culprit would be soonest brought to a realizing sense of his misdoing and his repentance would produce a more lasting reform. At present, offenders of all grades and ages are thrown together and the younger ones learn more evil than they knew at the time of their arrest, growing daily more depraved and vicious so long as they remain in bad company. It may be possible, however, to employ most of the convicts at tasks which will not require their close association, either at work or in quarters, and, if that desideratum can be reached, the last argument against the leasing of prisoners will be met and the system will be continued indefinitely, such minor matters as the corruption of inspectors, of which Alabama has complained, being capable of rebuke through legislation.

In Florida, the farming out of thieves and murderers gave rise to many scandals. The prison camps were scenes of disorder. They were compared, and justly, to those of Siberia, which they closely resemble—the

matter of climate being eliminated—and the oppressions, injuries and outrages were not unlike those recorded of the prisons of Europe in the last century. Women convicts, fortunately few in number, were entirely at the mercy of the men who had bought them and of the overseers and bosses. Prisoners were kept in filthy barracks, half starved, loaded with chains, overworked and beaten. The state was compelled to interfere and, under the new order, there is little complaint, even among the convicts themselves.

In Alabama there has been less of personal abuse, but it is alleged that certain inspectors of the camps have availed themselves of their positions to improve their fortunes, by accepting stores or money as a condition of overlooking defects and wrongs. In that state, as in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, a majority of the convicts are leased to private employers, but these states own or rent certain farms and plantations, which are worked by short term prisoners, at a profit. Georgia compels its minor offenders to clean and repair the roads and streets, and it is a strange sight for Northern eyes—that of a band of four or five men, black and white, shackled, in convict stripes, hoeing and sweeping before the residences of the sort of people who, in some parts of the world, would be shocked by such an exhibition, while a burly person leans against anybody's fence a few yards away, with a loaded gun in his hand, and watches the prisoners, and chews tobacco.

CONVICT ROAD BUILDING UNPROFITABLE.

The restraints which have been laid upon convict labor in many parts of the country, on the allegation that it is a rival of free labor, have resulted in putting many of the prisoners at work on roads, parks, reservoirs, embankments and the like, and usually they are well employed at road building, for in the matter of public highways we are woefully behind Europe. So it is curious that in Alabama they have been taken off the roads, for economy's sake, it having been found that the cost was higher than when such roads were built by free labor. A law of that state likewise forbids the employment of leased convicts in railroad work, but there were sanitary reasons for this, as it was found that the health of the prisoners suffered in the temporary and ill furnished camps, that

changed place every day, as the embankment was extended, and that they were too often pitched in marshy and malarial ground.

Most of the Alabama convicts are employed in turpentine distilleries and coal mines. The state pays the cost of conviction, but beyond that, the employer assumes all the expense. If a criminal escapes his employer must pay into the public treasury \$200, if the runaway is a long term prisoner, or "state man," and \$100, if he is a "county man," or short term convict. The runaways number barely 2 per cent., and in trying to get away, they stand a good chance of being shot. Bloodhounds are kept at every camp. The Alabama state inspectors are only three in number, and one of them must be a physician. They make the rounds of the convict stations twice a month. The present system has been in vogue for seventeen years, and brings into the state an annual income of \$40,000. The law demands that the prisoners shall be properly clad and lodged and shall be fed on the United States Army ration. They are to have sleeping rooms and dining-rooms in separate buildings, the negroes and white convicts are not to be housed together,

his skull with a hatchet. After this second assassination he walked away and was never captured.

FLORIDA HAS THIRTEEN CONVICT CAMPS.

There are now thirteen camps in Florida, each one of which is technically a state prison, and they are under the watch of a supervisor who must visit them at least once in sixty days, examine the buildings, food, clothes and bedding, question keepers and convicts as to work, punishment, and health, enforce compliance with the laws and report to the governor every month. Where a contractor fails in his promises the governor has power to end his business relations with the state, and he has also the authority to pardon any convict. The leasing system has been in vogue for twenty-three years. At first the state paid \$8,000 to a contractor to take its prisoners off its hands. He made so good a thing of it that in the next year men were found who were quite willing to take the convicts for nothing. Recently the sale of their services has realized \$21,000 a year, and there is reason to believe

a week; he must see that the buildings are swept every day and scalded and scoured on Saturday; every man must wash his hands and face before eating; for sick convicts beds must be provided with springs and mosquito nets; in case of death, when no physician has been in attendance, the usual inquest is held; contractors are empowered to punish for disobedience, but are warned against cruelty; no guard may curse, strike or abuse a prisoner; no intoxicated person may enter a camp; any employee discovered to have been drinking is to be discharged at once; card playing, gambling and liquor are forbidden to the prisoners; conversation between prisoners and strangers is forbidden; no convict, whether a trusty or not, is to leave the stockade or works, except under guard, and all must be in quarters at 8 at night; there shall be no work on Sunday; men employed in mines must not be so shackled or hobbled that they cannot move quickly when a bank is about to fall.

A recent report showed 780 prisoners in the camps and this number is an average. During the past year 18 died, 131 were discharged, 6 pardoned, 25 escaped, 11 were re-



and every camp must have a hospital. When an inspector is present at the whipping, a turbulent convict may be punished with twenty-one lashes on the bare back, but in the absence of a state officer, the camp warden's powers are limited, for he is forbidden to give more than fifteen blows, and with the convict clothed, at that. The guards must be of good character, ostensibly, but no other qualification is exacted. They receive from \$20 to \$30 a month and their "keep," and are generally of the poor white class, dull and illiterate.

In Florida, where the prison camps were formerly the worst, many changes have been made for the better, owing to the indignation excited by laxity and cruelty in former years. It is alleged that prisoners were not only beaten nearly to death, but killed outright, the reports representing that they had been shot in trying to escape. The camp guards were often of as low a grade as the prisoners, and brutal fights used to occur among them. In one instance a guard who had committed a murder, suspecting one of his comrades of an intent to betray him to the authorities and obtain a reward, followed the unfortunate man to a shadowy spot and clove

that within the twelvemonth this figure will be advanced to \$100,000. One man may bid for all the convicts in the state and then sublease them in gangs of any desired size, but direct bids will probably be exacted in future. All leases are for four years, and the only cost of its criminals to the state are the salaries of supervisors and a sum of \$300 a year for chaplain service.

The development of the phosphate mines, which created a demand for men, was in part responsible for the inauguration and success of the leasing system, and the profits of these mines and of the turpentine stills are such as to justify not merely all cost of maintaining the convicts, while at work, but during their confinement in jail, between arrest and sentence. The prisoners fare as well, in the average, under this arrangement, as when cared for by the public. No employer of convicts can expect good work from men who are underfed, ill clothed, improperly housed and maltreated. It is required of the contractor that he shall provide each convict with two suits of clothing—the usual prison garb, with dirty looking black and white stripes; he shall cause each man to change his clothes and bathe at least once

captured and 609 were whipped. A common proportion of blacks and whites will show about 650 negroes to 100 whites and 20 colored women to 2 white ones.

The food appears to be sufficient, fair in quality and is cooked by the convicts themselves. At Hillman's turpentine camp, Floral City, where forty-nine men are employed, the ration for a recent day consisted of 49 pounds of bacon, 25 of flour, 20 of dried peas, 37 of meal, 9 of rice, and 1½ gallons of syrup. Vegetables diversify the diet and on Christmas the heart of the colored gentleman behind the bars enlarges with joy, for he has turkey and chicken. At Hillman's Camp, which is considered as a model, good feeding appears to produce good order, for a month's report announces that only one man was punished. "He was whipped 8 licks."

SAMPLE CAMP AT THE PHOSPHATE MINES.

Let us visit a specimen camp—one of those in the northern part of the state, in the district of which Lake City is the presumptive capital. It is a rough, backward, lonely country, with ragged woods of pine



The White Prisoners, Barrack

Kitchen of a Convict Barrack

and green saws of palmetto in every prospect. The villages are scattered and poor. Many appear to have no school, no church, no social, intellectual or industrial stimuli. The "crackers" vegetate, content with the old ways, lazy, void of ambition, illiterate and to their shame be it said, the negroes show far more diligence than they in the matter of acquiring education. They "allow schools are good things, and they are going to send the chillun to one of 'em some time," but they don't. When Florida has more towns and railroads, and the rest of the world rubs harder against its corners, it may improve. As the state has fewer people than Baltimore, they do not see enough of one another.

It is a windy, dusty drive through the pine barrens to the phosphate mines. Not a sign post to be seen and roads waggle off to right and left, seemingly going to nowhere. A stranger would be hopelessly lost in an hour. Indeed, it is hard to imagine that one could make his way through these woods without a compass. They offer no difficulties to the feet. There are no tangles of vegetation. It is endless sand and pine—sand and pine. Hundreds of miles of this country have probably never felt the press of human foot and the infrequent houses that are seen are but little more than shanties. After a time ungainly hoists and crushers begin to show themselves in clearings, and presently, a stockade, inclosing, say, half an acre, comes into view. The fence is of heavy wooden palings, about fifteen feet high and contains a gate wide enough to admit a wagon. It is unfastened, and on entering a long, dismal wooden structure, unpainted, is seen at the left, and a larger one over-tops it at the right. This larger one is white-washed and is for black folk and the black and rusty building is for white ones. Negroes are the aristocrats in this settlement. The buildings are locked and shuttered, yet the interiors are visible because of the light which enters at chinks in the wood work, cracks of an inch in width being common. In the white men's barracks there are no prisoners, for they are at work; but in the little room at the end, where the trusties sleep, one young fellow is abed. He sits up as I enter and eyes me sharply.

"Are you the doctor?" he asks, and when I say "No," he grumbles, "Well, I seen you somewhere," and goes to sleep again.

At the door a dispirited, droop-shouldered man in a convict dress that looks as if it had been worn for twenty years, and a mustache that has been eaten off in spots, is coughing—

the hollow, raucous, hopeless cough of the consumptive. He is another trusty. Probably he could not live two days from this base of supplies. There is one middle aged negro in the black men's barracks, who is evidently on the sick list also. He sits at one of the dining tables, motionless as a graven image, with his eyes fixed on an inch of candle that is guttering in a tin holder. In the gleam of the candle and the narrow bars of daylight, it is seen that a few personal possessions are allowed to the convicts, a pin cushion, a pictured calendar, a banjo, a kickshaw or so, from the poor hovels that they called their homes. The interiors are neither very dirty nor very clean. They are in good order, and there is none of the usual

prison odor. Many New York tenements are more noisome. The barracks, indeed, suggest the log houses which are winter homes of Maine lumbermen, but those who have seen the Siberian prisons, say that they are almost a counterpart of them in size, appearance and interior arrangement.

CONVICT KITCHENS UNINVITING.

In a detached shed, twenty or thirty feet away, is the kitchen, a dark and dingy place, with an earth floor, a huge caldron set in brick, and a brick oven. A bold looking colored woman is seated on a table swinging her feet, humming carelessly and nibbling at an apple. A colored man is chop-



Convicts at work in phosphate mines, Wades Fla.

ping wood in the yard. At a bench is a white fellow of 30, with keen black eyes and a stubble of beard, who is grinding coffee. The presiding genius, also in convict dress, is a peaceable looking man of about the same age, with mild blue eyes, soft voice and apologetic manner—something pathetic about him—who lifts the lid of the caldron and stirs some great slabs of fat pork tumbling about in yellow, frothing water. One look, one sniff at this would be the coup de grace in a reluctant case of seasickness. There are hoe cakes, just out of the ashes in the brick oven, that are pleasanter to contemplate, for although coarse, they appear wholesome. This is the supper. No guards are in sight, and any one of the seven occupants of the camp could walk away and be lost if he could find water to cross. Otherwise the dogs would be upon him and he would be dragged back to the stockade, whipped if he had not been shot on the run, and consigned to the mines with shackles about his legs.

At each of the mines are gangs of a dozen or fifteen men—burly negroes, principally—who are directed by white bosses, and about the edge of each excavation, which will average an acre in extent, stand the guards. There are little towers, to which they can ascend and be under shelter in rain or noon shine. Many of these fellows have been used to guns from childhood; they are quick, straight shots, and it is pleasant to see them take a new grip on their weapons and look inquiringly toward one as he advances into the forbidden ground. They are courteous enough, however, on closer acquaintance—just dull, usual crackers, without whisky and without gulle. There are a few negro women employed at some of the lighter labor about the breakers and washers, and they are without any guard soever.

The Southern phosphate country is of unknown extent, but the Florida beds are scattered and are seldom more than a couple of acres in area or more than forty feet in thickness. The convicts are employed in breaking up the soft, gray rock with picks and shovels, loading it on barrows, which are dumped into cable cars and carried up long inclines to the crushers. The work requires muscle, but no skill, and is such as would be allotted to the poorest paid laborers, if it were paid for at all. And most of these men get as much out of it as do the paid laborers—food, clothes and shelter. They are not a misused or depressed looking company. On the contrary, they are in good physical condition, they work steadily, but without haste or anxiety, and they look up out of the pits with the usual jolly grin of the negro when they find strange eyes upon them. It is hard to believe them to be as bad as their accusers have made them out. At the set of sun they will march to quarters, where supper will be ready for them, and where, if the night is falling cold, a roaring wood fire will partially warm the room. Till 8 o'clock they can talk, read, dance, sing and play; then, at the stroke of a gong, they will undress, put on night gowns and lie down to sleep, two on each mattress. In some camps the mattresses are on the floor, in some on platforms and in others there are bunks.

PRISONERS MAKE NO COMPLAINT.

Several prisoners with whom I talked had no complaint to make. Indeed the only critic was the cook, whose kitchen, he said, was so loosely put together that on a windy day the sand blew in and bothered him and got into the food, which was true, for even as he said it the sand was whirling in drifts across the barrens and threatening to play hob with such houses in the neighborhood as could boast of glass windows, and although there was no open window in this place I was able to take a photograph by the light that poured in through the crevices. If Florida were often struck with a frost the people in these barn like prisons would have pneumonia and other troubles, but the general health is good, and the antiseptic value of air is appreciated. It is customary to build the barracks in L shape, reserving one wing for the bunks and the other for a dining and lounging room. Each wing is 25, or 30 feet wide, and of a length proportionate to the number of occupants that an employer expects to keep about the place. Iron bars are seldom used for the small windows, which are generally shuttered against heat and flies, but there are stout bars of wood instead. The buildings look as if they would be easy to burn, but no wholesale escape would be undertaken, even in such an event. The moral restraint of the Winchester is great, and there are dogs at every camp.

Odd as it seems, the best guards are often the trustees, chosen from among the criminals themselves, and a carload of reprobates recently passed through northern Florida in the charge of an experienced murderer who is serving a life sentence. The paid guards were instructed to obey his orders. This same pleasant person has a deal of liberty, and is to be met in the woods, now and again, with a gun and a dog, no longer killing men, but birds, and sure to be back at the stockade before bed time, if he says he will be: a puffed gentleman, sah.

If to this man convict life is a descent it is otherwise for a majority of the prisoners. The lack of a reformatory value in the camp system is due in large part to the content with which it fills the average negro. Says one state official: "Ninety per cent. of these niggers are perfectly bappy. They're living better than they can live at home. Fewer of the Florida convicts reform than in the states where they keep up the old prison system, because they are the low-downest lot of people in the country and they can't be made any better. You don't have any such class in the North. They're just animals, without any regard for human rights or human life, and it's queer that a lot of them call themselves preachers."

Most of the whippings are given because of the men fighting among themselves. A strap 20 inches long is the instrument of rebuke, but only 15 blows may be struck at one session. Two weeks must then elapse before physical pain is again inflicted. There

is little doubt that in the evil days prisoners were whipped to death, some of them receiving 150 lashes at a time, every lash tearing the skin and drawing blood. The punishment is milder now. Yet it was the significant remark of a guard, the other day, that "when we take a strap to one of those fellows he ain't no good afterward."

WHITE MEN AND BLACK FARE ALIKE.

The democracy of crime exposes white convicts to the same suffering and degradation as the blacks. A murderer who had been a figure in society was assigned to one of the camps as a bookkeeper, men of education and manner being in demand for such offices, but an exigency having arisen one day, he was ordered to trundle a wheelbarrow. He protested that he had never done a negro's work before and never would. Being led to the barrow and forced to take the handles, he fell to the ground, feigning to be overcome with weakness. The mine owner struck him a couple of taps with a cane, sighed and abandoned the situation. No sooner was he out of sight than his overseer marched to the prostrate convict and administered a larruping that made him roar for mercy. In five minutes he was pushing his barrow with great enterprise, promising to distribute phosphate all over the place, and that was the last of his experiment in rebellion.

Shackling is seldom practiced, except as a punishment for runaways, as it interferes with work. It consists in chaining the legs, just below the knee, so closely that the culprit can move only by short steps. The weight of this chain is relieved by attaching it to another chain, about the waist.

Such of the men as wish to do so may work overtime, and they are paid from 10 to 20 cents an hour. One gentleman who blew off the top of another gentleman's head, in the belief that the gentleman who is at present without a head had cast doubts on his gentility, earns a dollar a month, which he sends to his family. In an eastern country. A few of the convicts—very few—have laid away a hundred dollars, and are looking forward to a large and joyous time, on their release.

Little or nothing is done for the betterment of the men, intellectually, nor is any trade taught to them. Missionary enterprise expends itself chiefly in the distribution of tracts which, it is asserted, are read by many of the prisoners, inasmuch as they are not allowed to gamble. Offenders under the age of 16 are sent to the reformatory, and white convicts are commonly assigned to offices and cook shops, or become gang foremen. The few women that Florida juries are so ungallant as to send into penal servitude are usually employed in housework. For the white prisoner, whatever his offense, there is always a hope of pardon. The black prisoner, unless he is merely a crap player or chicken thief, warmly congratulates himself that he is consigned to healthful, open air work, for he remembers how dreadfully easy it is in Florida for a black man to get himself lynched.

Complete Isolation.



WHEN Charles Dickens was in this country he said that he came to see two things: the Falls of Niagara and the Eastern Penitentiary of Pennsylvania. He was graciously pleased to be pleased with the Falls, but the prison bothered him. He found one old reprobate there

who was serving a long term, whose tears and moans and appeals cut him to the heart. Crafty old cove, that reprobate, for so soon as he got out he went to considerable trouble to get in again, and when he had the choice he always committed his crimes near Philadelphia, solely that he might be sent back to this prison. Here he spent years of his life, and Dickens died long before he did.

The reason for Dickens' curiosity respecting this institution was that it had gained a world fame as a place of terrors, for here had been originated a system of solitary confinement, so called, which was alleged to rob the prisoners of hope, of health, of reason and of life. The system has been modified in the last half century, and it is now called separate, rather than solitary, confinement. Solitary confinement pertains only to the dark ages—to the era of small tyrants and dungeons—but even separation of prisoners is impossible so long as a prison containing 765 cells must be used for over 1,100 convicts.

The war of systems has raged for fifty years without coming to an end, but, with the intensifying of the instinct for aggregation, that shews itself in the desertion of the country and the disproportionate increase of the towns, the congregate system has many more advocates at present than does the separate system which is continued at Philadelphia. Adherents of the Auburn or congregate system, whereby prisoners are brought together in shops and quarries, claim that by association the men are made more cheerful and tractable, that their health is therefore better, that by separating harsh people from one another society is setting an example of harshness more intolerable than is that of the criminals themselves, that when bad men were put into cells alone they spent their time in thinking up revenges and planning crimes, that on release the men are not qualified to go into a world which they have almost forgotten, and, what worries the man who pays the taxes, the expense of the separate system is heavier than that of the congregate, since the man who is to stay by himself for years must have more room than the convict who merely sleeps in his cell and

leaves it at dawn to work, and must earn less because he cannot have machinery driven by steam.

MERITS OF THE SEPARATE SYSTEM.

The advocates of the separate system, on the contrary, claim that their method is morally the best, because desperate men are not thrown into association to concoct fresh crimes or teach evil to younger associates, because when a man is confined alone he will work better than when his attention is distracted by the noise and crowd around him, because he has time and tendency for repentance and is not encouraged by the presence of other offenders to continue an air of bravado and defiance, or attempt rebellions against discipline, and because on leaving the place he will not be recognized by other occupants of the prison and dragged down into bad company. For it is recorded of graduates from other institutions of the sort that they have been enticed and hounded and betrayed and blackmailed, though it is not the ex-convicts alone who have done these evil things, but former keepers or guards of the prisons who have fallen from grace. Moreover, there is a great advantage in the Pennsylvania system in respect of government and discipline, for each convict is treated individually, and there can be no epidemic of disorder such as we hear of now and again in the congregate establishments. There is the same diversity among offenders as among the inoffensive and when each of the inmates is secluded he is susceptible of treatment, moral, mental and physical, that may be adapted to his need. When authorized prison visitors enter his cell, to argue and plead with him to improve his morals, he is far more likely to resign himself to their influence than he would be if a company of sinners was grinning at him from another part of the room and ready to gibe him for yielding to persuasions of Sunday school folk.

But whatever the merits and demerits of the separate system, one can no longer find a prison in this country where the practice of it is absolute. It is no longer possible to make it so in Philadelphia, because that once moral town has increased in size and wickedness till "doubling up" is necessary. In the hospital cells and in one or two of the others, peopled by skilled or trusted convicts who are employed together, say in carpentry, plumbing or anything of that sort, there are as many as four beds.

TALKING CANNOT BE STOPPED.

And although it is understood that there shall be no talking, except during exercise, do you suppose the man exists who would be locked up with another for

years and not say anything? Indeed talk is sometimes necessary, because the men will be found at work together, and they must consult on the way of doing the work. There are frequent differences of opinion respecting the opening of the ventilating windows, and the amount of bad tobacco that ought to be smoked in a close room, and the time when the steam ought to be turned on in the pipe, and other matters of the sort, and, not being free to part company in case of disagreement, the roommates fall to fighting. Birds in their little nests agree, but not little jail birds. After a fight there is a divorce of the partners, and by a provision of the law there need be no joint occupancy of an apartment in the first place if a prisoner objects.

The man who demands separate confinement must be allowed to have it. Fortunately for the officers, who would otherwise be put to it to provide quarters for more men than there are cells, most of the misdemeanants prefer company, at least on entering; yet there are not a few who positively prefer to be alone. One picturesque looking pirate in a red cap, with tattooed arms bared to the elbow, was weaving furiously on a rude loom, operated by hand, for there is no steam or other artificial power in the prison, and I asked him what his preference would be.

"Sure, I'd rather be wid folks," he answered. "I was a boss weaver in Lawrence, and that's why I come to be weaving here. I had plenty of company in them days, but I don't so much mind bein' widout it here. Sure isn't it better to be alone than in bad company?" He said this without the least twinkle of the eye. He was a murderer, and the most troublesome and ill tempered man in the penitentiary.

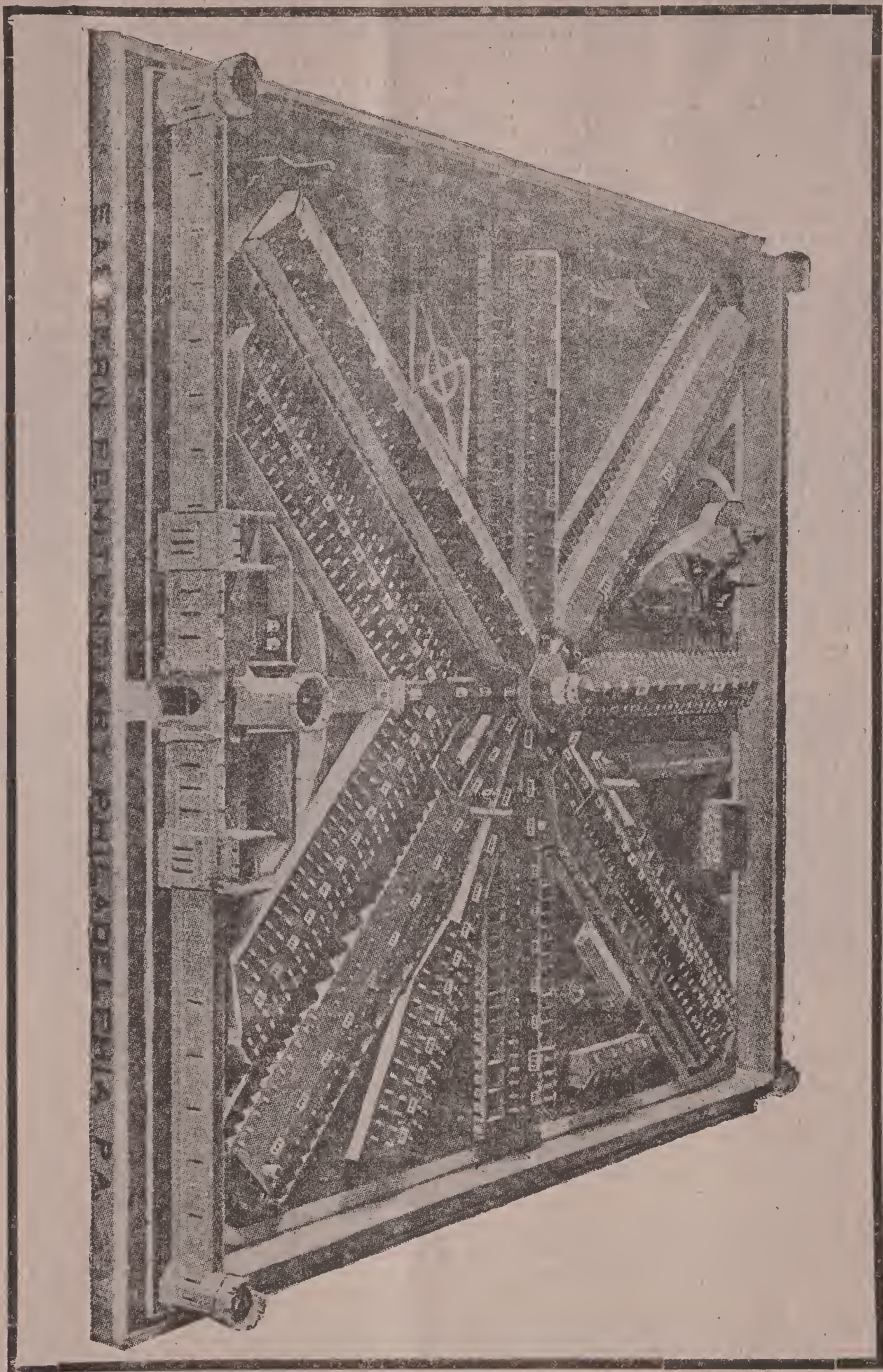
Another convict, who was also a weaver, was decidedly opposed to congregate prisons.

"I used to work in a coal mine, and I'd rather be there," he said, with a smile, "but I want no company in my cell. I'd sooner be alone with nothing to bother me. I have my mind on my weaving, and while I'm here I'd rather work this way."

CONVICTS WORK HARD FOR PAY.

This man was weaving blue jeans, such as is used for the convict dress. His allotted task was ten yards a day, but it was his custom to weave forty. For all over the ten compulsory yards he receives one cent a yard. Another who weaves checked gingham has a task of eight yards a day, but he elects to make forty, and as he receives 1½ cents a yard for all extra, his daily savings are nearly half a dollar. The same allowance and similar tasks are given to the weavers of bed ticking and, in fact, the stents are never severe enough to task the resources or strength or health of the captive.

The trades practiced in the cells are vari-



ous, and most of them are learned on the premises. They include shoemaking, chair bottoming, brush making, stocking weaving, and the making of cigars, rag carpets and cocoa mats. As in other states, the labor unions have influenced legislation and have thrown many of the convicts out of work. The law permits only a tenth of the prisoners to work at any one trade and the contention has been made that the law absolutely prescribes labor in the Pennsylvania prisons except on the part of one-tenth of the total number of convicts. These laws are injurious to the welfare and discipline of the prisoners, and are an injustice to the taxpayers of the state, since the prisons cease to be self-supporting. Although frequent outcries are made over the alleged inroads of convict labor into the field of free work, the facts and figures do not bear out the allegations and theories of the agitators.

In its architectural form the Eastern Penitentiary differs from any other in this country, the suggestion for it having probably come from a design by Jeremy Bentham, which he called the Panopticon, because from a central point one was supposed to see everything. The cells occupied galleries in a round building, like that used in our time for panoramas, and as all of them opened toward a central rotunda, a watchman in a station opposite the top row had the whole place under his view, for he could look into every cell. In this Philadelphia institution the cells are practically closed by wooden doors, in addition to the gratings, and no attempt is made to inspect all of them from any central point, but the ten wings of the penitentiary are open to view from the central rotunda, and no door can open, no person can go or come without being plainly seen by the corridor guards. Two of the newer wings do not open directly on the rotunda, but the difficulty of observation is overcome by placing mirrors at such an angle that they will reflect the passages; therefore, the whole prison is practically under watch of the officers.

NO HOPE OF ESCAPE HERE.

The cells are larger and lighter than those of the usual prison. They are arched, and there is a small window high in the gable of each one—too small for escape, even if escapes were attempted, which they are not, often, for it is of no use to try to get out. There are dogs in the yard, and there is a mighty wall, 40 feet high, surmounted by a slate roof which overhangs 18 inches, so that even were the convict to reach it he would have to perform some difficult acrobatic feats in order to gain the top. The guards, secure in the security of the prisoners, have no stations on this wall, they carry no guns, pistols or blackjacks, nor does one hear from them the rough and violent language which is no unusual thing in prisons. Indeed they appear to be on friendly terms with most of their charges, and when they unlock and enter a cell the greetings are "Hello, Dan," and "How are you, Jim, and how are things going in the yard?"

What might be called the social atmosphere of this presumably unsocial place is agreeable as compared with that of some prisons. Not that the ideal is to be attained in this respect in any prison, or any place that is not a prison, if it comes to that; but there is less of bullying and bossing and temper on the part of the guards and less of fear and sullenness on the part of the prisoners. There is at least an outward appearance of resignation that resembles con-

tent. To be sure, the prisoners have advantages that are not given to all convicts. The watch is less strict and suspicious than in most correctional institutions; the cells are larger, nearly double the size, indeed, of the average prison apartment; most of the cells have little yards in which the men exercise or disport themselves for an hour or more on pleasant days; there is a good library; the prisoners are allowed to take the daily papers and magazines; they are permitted to have files, saws, knives and other tools, so long as they are used in their employments, and there is less restraint in respect of gifts from friends and relatives outside than in most places of the sort.

FLOWERS FOR A MURDERER.

While I was talking with one of the guards a large bouquet and a basket of flowers were brought into the corridor. They were intended for a young man who shot a girl in a fit of jealousy in a hotel a few years ago, and is expiating his offense by a life sentence. The man was an actor, and these floral gifts are not infrequent. He was called into the corridor to receive the gift, and accepted it gratefully with a bow and thanks. Hardly had he returned to his cell before it occurred to one of the officials that the basket had not been thoroughly examined, and it was brought back in a hurry. Nothing that was dangerous was found in it, however.

"We have to be careful in these matters," said one of the guards, "for a while ago a pot of flowers was sent to one of the prisoners here, and by good luck it broke in the hands of the express messenger who brought it. A couple of pistols fell out of the earth that the plant had been put in. Still, it isn't that sort of thing we have to look out for, so much as it is rum."

Another unwonted liberty accorded to the prisoners is that of wearing their hair and beards as pleases them. The usual convict has his scalp visited by a lawn mower on his admission to a prison. There is a sanitary reason for this, though the principal object in cropping the hair is to enable the hunters to identify the convict the more readily in case of an escape. In Russia the identification is still easier, because only one side of the head is shaved. And in nearly all penal institutions the convict must wear a shaven lip and jowls, though he is allowed to grow a beard or mustache just before leaving prison, that he may not go back into society with the prison mark upon him. If a Philadelphia convict elects to shave he may do so, and may borrow the official razor twice a week. The trustees, or, as they are called, "runners," none of whom is allowed outside of the walls, may even be shaved artistically by a prison barber, although the functions of that individual apply rather to the smoothing of official countenances.

In theory, at all events, the inmate of the Eastern Penitentiary is secluded from the society and even the observation of his associates. His vaulted chamber is closed by a grated door set in a wall of needless thickness, and in the older wings these doors are curiously low and narrow, requiring the prisoner to stoop and almost to turn sidewise to enter them. A fat burglar would have to undergo the Banting or an equivalent system before he could force an entrance. These doors are only 4 feet high and 17 inches wide. In the newer wings, and in such of the prison as has been modernized, the doors are of the usual dimension. In addition to this grating the prisoner is separated from the world by a heavy door of wood, which slides across the

opening, but is usually left ajar. Formerly the wooden doors were kept tight, so that even the sounds in the building came to the ears of the men only as vague rumors, but so many of the inmates appealed against this practice, begging that the doors might at least be opened for coolness' sake in summer, that the warden finally told them they might have them partly opened so long as they behaved well; but that on the first infraction of the rules the doors would be closed again, and they have never since been permanently shut.

CONVICTS HAVE TO WEAR MASKS.

The wooden door is fastened by a latch which the prisoner cannot reach, and which likewise secures the iron door more firmly. The opening is so slight that the occupant of a cell has the merest glimpse of the corridor, but cannot see into the cell on the opposite side. When a visit is made to the cell of any man the guard makes sure that the cell on the opposite side is closed. In addition to these precautions the men are masked when they go out for exercise in the general yard, the mask resembling that worn at fancy balls—a piece of cloth falling over the face and pierced only by eyeholes. These disguises give to the convict an uncanny and sinister appearance, but they serve their purpose, presumably, in preventing recognition, and thereby save the feelings of such as have feelings.

The wooden door bears the name and number of the man whom it conceals, but it does not state his offense. The number corresponds to that in the warden's list, and that contains the prisoner's record. The first prisoners were numbered up to 10,000 and the second 10,000 were classed as A. The present household has not completed the B class. As the penitentiary dates from 1827 this means that Pennsylvania must be a moderately good state, even if Mr. Quay does live there. Seldom is reference made to the offense of the prisoner in his presence. There is a desire to spare his feelings. For the same reason it is not permitted to turn the camera upon him. When I took photographs in and about the place all the men who were working about the corridors were ordered into their cells, though some of them appeared not to care in the least whether they were photographed or not.

SYSTEM MAKES MEN GENTLE.

One active, good natured looking man, seeing me produce a note book to record some figures, glanced up with a smile and said, "If I'd known you were coming I'd have asked you to dinner." Then, in some disquietude, he exclaimed, "You haven't got a camera, have you?" On being assured that I had none at hand, he picked up his dinner, which consisted of a lump of meat in a pail and some bread, and was apparently ready to enjoy himself.

This man was a type of many in the place. Separate confinement seems to make them more kindly and gentle. It does not appear to influence their temper or spirits to the degree that enemies of the system declare it does. And the reports of the institution show a truly remarkable result in health and sanity. So far from turning the men into lunatics—as it might, however, if the solitude were long and unbroken—it is declared that although there was one suicide last year, none of the inmates have become insane, at least during the several years in which the present warden has been in charge, and that the death rate is the lowest of any prison in

the United States. Last year only fourteen convicts died, among 1,900 who were confined here.

The sanitary condition of the place is in part responsible for this showing. In the majority of American prisons there is a prison within a prison. That is, the cells are in tiers facing a hall bounded by the outer shell of the building which contains the windows. In the Philadelphia institution every cell contains a window—a small one to be sure, too narrow to see from, unless one looks at the sky, and much too small to allow escape, but it admits direct light and the air comes through it straight from out of doors, not

NO CHANCE FOR COMMUNICATION.

In those wings where, for lack of ground room, it has been found needful to add a second story, thereby creating a gallery tier, it is of course impossible to provide the prisoners upstairs with yards, hence the overhead men are led out for exercise in the general yards of the prison. The upper cells have ventilating shafts extending over the yard partitions and terminating in the general yard beyond them. Were it not for this arrangement the men in the lower tier could whisper through these ventilators while they were at liberty in the cell yards.

he knows that the one who is listening at the other end of the steam pipe is not a prisoner, but a guard.

While discussing these various ways of talking and telegraphing in the cell of an innocent looking fellow who had been caught in the act of entering somebody else's house through a window, the prisoner laughed aloud and exclaimed, "They're onto us. They know everything we do." But by the same token, many of them know what the guards do, also. It is hard to account for the way in which news spreads in these great congregations, but it does spread. Yet the warden of this prison assured me he had never ob-



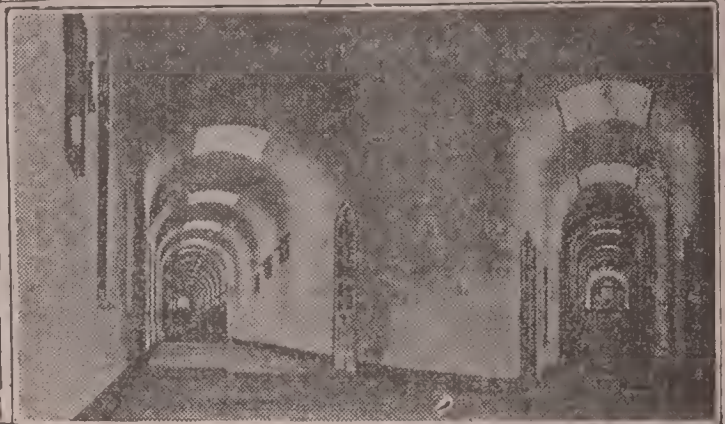
CENTRAL TOWER WHERE THE WINGS MEET. THE DOORS LEAD INTO CELL YARDS.



ACROSS THE INCLOSURE, EASTERN PENITENTIARY, PHILA. SHOWING LITTLE YARDS BEHIND CELLS.



ONE OF THE WINGS, SHOWING DOUBLE TIER OF CELLS, EASTERN PENITENTIARY, PHILA.



TWO OF THE WINGS IN EASTERN PENITENTIARY, PHILADELPHIA.

fouled by the usual odors of confined spaces. This window is at the peak of the gable, and under it is the door leading into the little yard. This door itself contains a window which the inmate can open, thus admitting air and a little light. In winter the windows may be closed on sharp days, and a steam pipe runs through each cell, so that it is commonly warm enough. Men who work hard prefer plenty of air and do not want the steam turned on or the windows closed until their task is done, whereas they may have a cell mate to whom no work has been given and who, because he is not keeping warm by exercise, will complain of cold and presently fall to fighting over it. Then he becomes too warm and has to be cooled officially. It is not heat that causes all the trouble, though. Sometimes it is discussions on religion. A fact,

Possibly it will be thought that they do not and cannot communicate with one another. When a man has little else to occupy himself withal that is exactly what he will set himself to do: to talk with his neighbors. He will tap on the wall till he attracts the notice of the man in the next cell, and will talk to a prisoner as far away as ten cells, through the sewer pipe that passes down the tier. He will institute a system of raps, like the Morse alphabet, and thus spell out words and sentences. Under the circumstances it is doubtful if he accomplishes any mischief, and he develops ingenuity in devising ways of communication. It is pretty certain that in lack of a personal meeting, any device for escape will come to nothing, and as a matter of fact attempts of this sort are almost unknown. Nor is he likely to unbosom himself completely when

served that the men in his charge had good or bad days. In some institutions, not needfully punitive in character, for schools are subject to these influences, there are days when climatic or other agencies are at work and when it seems as if the Old Boy had been let loose among the residents. On such days the inmates are lazy, or they are nervous, or they are intractable or morose or noisy. It is quite likely that the hypnotism of crowds, which always hold themselves as ready for evil suggestion as for good, is inoperative in a place where the crowd never comes into touch with itself, and so never realizes that it is a crowd.

ONE MAN HAS A PRIVATE GARDEN.

The time of exercise is variously employed. Some appear to care little whether they go out or not. Few of

the men take any interest in their bit of ground, in spite of the fact that if they did so they could doubtless obtain the liberty of those places all day long. There is one prisoner who has developed a taste for gardening, and he is permitted to spend practically all of his time out of doors. He raises flowers and ornamental plants, boxing them carefully at the onset of winter and resuming his work eagerly in the spring. There is a well kept greenhouse in one of the general yards, which is partly under the charge of the comedian who killed his sweetheart. Such visitors as obtain admission may buy bouquets here for a small price. It is obvious that a willingness exists, even if no effort is made, to put the men at congenial employments, and the pity of it is that legislation should make idleness compulsory upon so many of those who by the very reason of their wrong tendencies most need to be kept at useful employments.

The earnings of those convicts who wisely occupy themselves are saved for them against the time when they shall receive their diplomas and graduate, yet they can draw on this fund, if they wish for knickknacks for their cells, for papers and magazines or for gifts to friends or relatives outside. One man succeeded in earning enough to pay the rent of a place in the country where his family was living, and this implies hard work at current rates in the Eastern Penitentiary. Another prisoner who was there much longer than he cared to be, saved no less than \$2,200. With this tidy sum he was a deal better off than the average citizen who has never been locked up. On the day when he obtained his freedom he demanded his money. "No," said the warden. "I'm going to let you have only \$30. of it."

"But it's mine," protested the convict. "I don't deny that, but I am going to keep the rest till I see what you will do with this."

"I'm entitled to my money."

"And you shall have it. Take this \$30, go to town, have a good time and then come back for the rest."

EARNED A FARM WHILE IN PRISON.

And he did. He thought the matter over, spent the money deliberately and not unprofitably, getting back into the ways of the world again, and in a week he was back at the warden's office for more cash. "You're right," he admitted. "If I'd ha' had that money when I first got out I'd ha' blowed it in." He "blew in" the remainder wisely, for with it he bought a farm in Pennsylvania and is living on it and working it to-day.

He is, therefore, living in greater comfort than he enjoyed while he was earning the money to pay for the farm, for it is not desired nor intended to convert prisons into places of such attractiveness that people will struggle to get into them. The cells, though furnished according to personal caprice, where the convict has the means to indulge it, are bare, because the bare wall is the clean wall and does not shelter vermin. The bed is simplicity itself—two wooden "horses" supporting three boards on which is placed a thin straw mattress. Each participant in the hospitalities of the state receives three sheets, three blankets, two pairs of stockings, one coat, one vest, one pair of shoes, two pillow slips, two shirts, two pairs of drawers and two pairs of trousers. Friends in the outer world may send to them slip-

pers, underclothes and suspenders, as well as an allowance of tobacco, although this allowance must never exceed a pound a month. The runners, or trusted prisoners, have a ration or allowance of a pound of tobacco monthly, and their positions are, therefore, prized and envied. There are many applicants for the privileges of runners, solely because they receive tobacco, and when the allowance was cut down to half a pound the applications for places as runners fell off notably.

There is a daily change in diet. Coffee and bread are provided every morning and such of the bread as is not then eaten is put aside for the late meals. There is no stint in the quantity of anything, each man having all he wants of every item on the bill of fare. For dinner there will be, on one day, bean soup with pork, on others pot pie, mutton stew, boiled meat with dressing and potatoes, cabbage soup and dough balls, and on Sunday the dinner consists of a pound of meat with sweet potatoes. The evening meal consists of bread and cocoa, but on four nights a week there is a dessert of ginger cakes or cheese or stewed prunes, or stewed apples or peaches. Raw onions are likewise included in the dietary. The sick have their own kitchen and the cooking here is better than the average. The invalids also have good nursing, and although they are confined like the others, their apartments are larger, lighter and better cared for.

"DOUBLING UP" MAKES TROUBLE.

Where two men are put into a single cell the same order and cleanliness that would be possible in a cell with only one inhabitant become hardly possible. There is a litter of clothing and personal effects which crowd the apartment. In the cells where weaving is done by two occupants in alternation one of the pair must make his bed on top of the loom. In summer a contention may arise, as the heat up there is oppressive, and each man wants the other to have the worst of it, no matter how much he may think he prizes society, but in the winter—ah, then it may also cause a riot, because each may want it, for the same reason that makes it undesirable in summer, namely, that it is warm.

The furnishings of the cells are interesting. Such things as easy chairs are found, there are not a few photographs and prints, there are mats, rugs and strips of carpet, cabinets, desks and shelves; one man has a violin, but is not supposed to play on it in the day time, because others might stop their work to listen. One prisoner has a copy of "The Angelus" and several have photographs of actors and celebrities. The portrait of the President occurs, and there is no bar to religious pictures. Odd mottoes are also placed on the walls: "Rejoice and Be Exceeding Glad," "Two Birds in a Gilded Cage," "Beware of Pickpockets," and "Glad to See Your Back." These things are not all sent in by friends. Many of them are made by the prisoners themselves. One of them has a rudely but patiently embroidered lambrequin bearing the spread eagle and the national shield and his materials were threads of blue from frayed trousers, gray from his stockings and red from his shirt.

It upsets theories to find that many of the inmates of the Philadelphia prison thrive in body without work, however it may fare with their intellects and souls. When a man cau-

not find anything to do he may send to his family for materials to work upon. It would be an ideal place in which to write a book until the Authors' Union heard about it and got the usual bill through the Legislature to prohibit the manufacture of history and fiction in penitentiaries. But if one may not compose hooks he can read them. Each man has a printed catalogue of the 10,000 books in the library, and he is allowed to draw three of them every week. This is in addition to the papers and magazines and to the tracts that are left by Sunday visitors, who also distribute many copies of the Catholic Standard.

PUNISHMENT NOT PHYSICAL

There are no physical punishments for rebels and mischief makers, but the cutting off of privileges, such as reading and visits from friends is dreaded. The discipline, however, is good. According to the reports it is hardly equaled elsewhere in the prisons of this country. The daily exercise in the yards and the half hour walk and setting up exercise prescribed for those who have no yards, appear to allay prison nervousness and there is a disposition to obey the rules and earn an early discharge. In twenty-three years only one man has lost his commutation of sentence and he was the most obstinate fellow that the officers were ever called upon to deal with. He was a murderer and he announced on entering the place that he would do no work. The attempt was made to bring him to terms. He was allowed to see nobody, he was kept on a bread and water diet, he had no privileges and no comforts, but never a whit budged he from his determination. At last his health was so shaken that it was decided to put him on the same terms with the other prisoners; yet for twelve years he merely sat in his cell, doing nothing and thriving. He was kept in practical isolation all that time and was not apparently affected by it.

About a hundred of the convicts avail themselves every year of the opportunity for study. A teacher is provided who gives free instruction in the elementary branches, and several hard looking citizens may be found poring over arithmetics and geographies in the pauses of their work. It is possible that some of them undertake this belated instruction because they gain thereby the brief society of a teacher. Gang association is most missed and most wished by the most depraved, but association of some sort is preferred by the majority. There is no association, even on holidays, among the mass of the prisoners. On Sunday religious services are held, a preacher and choir occupying the end of each corridor, but the prisoners remain in their cells and listen or not, as they like, unseeing and unseen.

There are many depraved men among the hundreds that occupy this abode of outcasts, yet the order and even the cheer that pertain among so many of them and the relative neatness and quiet of the place make one ask whether Pennsylvania produces a somewhat better order of criminals than common, or whether there is not virtue in separate imprisonment. At all events, while sympathizing legislatures have practically abolished the system in the United States, its advantages have appealed to those on the other side of the sea and increasing numbers of advocates are found for it in Europe.

The Probation System.



MASSACHUSETTS has taken the lead of the other states in the reformation of reformatory measures. New York, to be sure, established the Elmira Reformatory, in which the indeterminate sentence was first put to the trial and found good, but Massachusetts has not stopped with her reformatories; she is introducing the ticket of leave in all of her institutions, and she is doing more than any other state has done to protect the criminal by accident from the consequences of crime that would be visited on the criminal by intent. She is well supplied with defenses against the depredator; she has a state prison in Charlestown, a state farm for short term prisoners and vagrants at Bridgewater, an asylum for the criminal insane at the same place, a reformatory for boys and men at Concord, a reformatory for girls and women at Sherborn, three houses of correction, nineteen jails and two schools for minors which are operated on the "open" system like that in vogue in the state reformatories of California.

Yet, with all this outfit, the aim is to keep people from being locked up. And with what success one may guess when he sees the figures; something like 40,000 people released on probation during the last ten years, and most of this number justified the official mercy. Massachusetts is not alone in enjoying the benefits of civilization. Crime is decreasing every year, though it is in lesser offenses that the diminution is greatest, murders, outrages and large thefts continuing as of yore. Yet it must be remembered that stationary figures would represent an ever decreasing percentage, since the population is growing all the time, and growing fast.

OLDEST PRISON STILL GOOD.

Oldest of all state prisons in the country, that in Charlestown—built in 1805—is yet the superior in many ways of Sing Sing, for it has been modernized, while Sing Sing has not. For instance, the cells in the New York prison are but little over a yard wide, whereas the Massachusetts institution, though originally as meager in cell room, has been enlarged by tearing out every second partition, thus making one cell of two, the result being that each inmate has room and light and air; he has, moreover, a simple grated door, instead of the iron plates

and lattices that are still in use in Sing Sing. A new wing is entirely modern and is probably equal in construction to any other in the world. The ventilation is perfect, for there is an alley between the cell blocks instead of the crevice that in Sing Sing can be reached across by small handed prisoners who have occasion to pass files to one another through the ventilating apertures.

In its form the edifice presents the customary wings radiating from a central octagon, each wing separated from the hub by a cage of bars reaching from floor to ceiling,

are devised for the occupancy of a nominally incorrigible class, and these measure 12 by 16 feet and are 12 feet from floor to ceiling ridge.

Where a man is to have no exercise in the air—at least, only an hour and a half a week—he needs a larger cell than common, that he may pace up and down, and also that appliances for some industry may be installed there. Such is the Pennsylvania system for corrigibles and cranks alike. Incorrigibles are not generally recognized, but in Massachusetts these larger rooms have been built for them in several institutions, and with



so that all the corridors are visible from the guard room. The shops are in buildings across the yards and inside the walls. Both shops and prison are well lighted, the windows being tall, and as the cell doors consist merely of upright bars the light enters every room, except the few dark cells where punishments are suffered for infraction of the rules. The old cells measure 5 by 9 feet on the ground, and are 7½ feet high; the new cells are 8 feet by 12 and 8½ feet high, and no cell should be smaller than this. Then a few cells are still larger, inasmuch as they

a gain to the general morale, as it removes from the shops and chapels a few troublesome and even dangerous fellows. In the shops a man who secretly foment discords, whispering mutiny, spreading discontent, maligning keepers, is marked as an "agitator," and if he will not reform he is consigned to a solitude where he will see nobody, where his food will be passed to him through a hole in the heavy wooden door that, in addition to the grating, separates him from the world, and where he will put seats into chairs, or go on short diet till he does.

INCORRIGIBLES NOT NUMEROUS.

At this writing there are but twelve occupants of the incorrigible apartments, and as some of them are under watch as suspected lunatics perhaps not more than seven or eight are really what the name implies. Indeed, the trouble makers are generally men of short wits and twisted wits. The name of agitator, which has been given to them, carries a sting in it, for prison authorities all over the land dislike the labor unions, who send agitators to the legislature to demand that work be given over in the penal institutions, or that it be reduced to a minimum, or that certain trades be not taught, or that only certain men be allowed to work at certain callings, or that there be no sale of prison made goods, and a dozen other interferences, that result in yearly deficits where the convict formerly paid his own way, that put upon the taxpayer the cost of his support, that cause lowered health and increased insanity, in relaxations of discipline that come through idleness and, worst of all, in return of the convict to society as ignorant and useless as he left it. There can be no reform without employment and there can be no employment without disturbing the mind of the professional agitator, and there is a growing belief that it is better to disturb the agitator's mind than to upset the economies of the state and perpetuate a vicious class, instead of redeeming it. Fear of competition, which the agitator is constantly pretending, is absurd. The handful of men who make horseshoes, for example, will never

sit and read, they are locked at night in cages, each by himself. Reading is encouraged and there are 8,500 books to draw from, in the library, and an hour a day school sessions are held. All who need schooling are cordially invited to attend. Cordial invitations in Massachusetts are not enforced with whips. Corporal punishment is forbidden, and in several of the institutions has never been practised. The discipline is generally strict, however, and the keepers

present there are not even stripes, the dress being a dull, coarse suit of gray, and there is no shaving or cropping of hair. The parole system, in certain other states peculiar to reformatories, has been introduced into the prison and albeit the Charlestown institution is for old offenders, it works well. Twenty-five to thirty men are freed every year on probation, and the returns of those who violate the parole have been but one a year. About two-thirds of the inmates are



THE CENTRAL OCTAGON.
STATE PRISON
BOSTON MASS.



REFORMATORY PRISON
FOR WOMEN, SHERBORN, MASS.

menace the freedom or prosperity of the robust company of habitual blacksmiths outside.

Charlestown prison has 800 cells and 850 men to put into them. Not all the extra inhabitants are doubled up, however. Short term men sleep on cots in the corridors, which is an improvement on the closer confinement. The health rate is good, and the deaths number but four or five a year. The hospital is not a dormitory, for though there is a large general room where convalescents

declare that the convicts prefer it so, for they see that under a rigid rule there will be no favoritism, no insecurity, and that the sanitary standards of the place will be kept up.

PAROLE SYSTEM WORKS WELL.

Relaxations from old methods are already to be seen, however. Formerly the dress of the convict was glaringly conspicuous. The subject was red on his right side and blue on his left. That costume was quit, till at

employed on productive industries, which comprise the making of boxes, brushes, clothing, shoes, harnesses, trunks and cloth. The others are runners, clerks, carpenters, harbers, blacksmiths, machinists, menders, painters, bakers, waiters, nurses, librarians, gardeners and laborers about the institution.

Some liberty is allowed to each man in the matter of cell decoration. There is a brass and string band which plays on Sunday in the chapel, and on holidays in the yard, and the hours of work are not severe, namely, from 7:30 to 5, with an hour and a half recess at noon. On working days there are three meals for each man on Sundays and holidays, when no work is done, only two, but the Sunday dinner is extra in quality and quantity. A daily change of menu is offered, and the dietary includes baked beans—this is in Boston—rice, bread, mush, real milk, soup, hash, tea, coffee, sugar and one boiled dinner weekly, with soup meat. There are delicacies for holidays, and friends are allowed to send in a limited number of additions. Catholic and Protestant services are held in the same room, at different hours, on Sunday, whereas in some of the states the Catholics insist on a separate chapel. Except in the putting apart of incorrigibles, there is no classification according either to term, conduct or history.

The idea of associating a prison with the name of Concord is repellent to most people. It was at Concord that the Americans made the first blow for liberty; it was here that Hawthorne wrote his haunting romances; here

that the divine Emerson pronounced for hope and faith; here that Thoreau defiantly lived his own life, and here that a company of dreamers, poets and enthusiasts carried on their school of philosophy. Yet, what nobler work can be done than that of saving the lives of the mistaken? The hundreds of young men who graduate from the reformatory in Concord—to say true, it is just outside of the town, and its presence is not a grief to your hero worshiper—have never heard much of Emerson, but they, nevertheless, leave the place with stronger brains, clearer vision, more skillful hands, and it should be with softer hearts, than they took there.

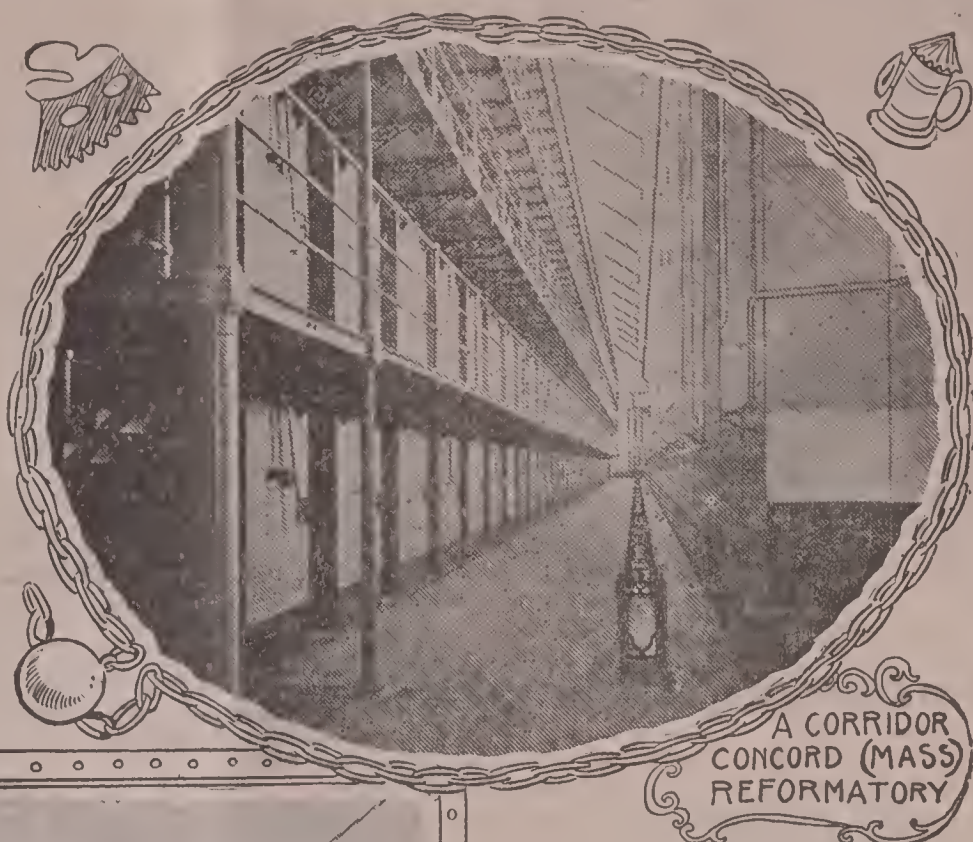
Massachusetts was the second state to create a reformatory and thereby discriminate between hopeful and supposedly hopeless cases. It followed Elmira, and built this institution at Concord in 1884. Here the indeterminate sentence is in practice, and the warden has it in his power to release an inmate on parole whenever he thinks his act is justified by circumstance and results show conclusively that it is. There is more elasticity as to age than in Elmira, for a boy of 14 may be received here, but so may a man who is over 40. The average is 20 years, and the number of inmates will not be far from 870, which, fortunately, is less than the number of cells.

AMERICANS IN MINORITY.

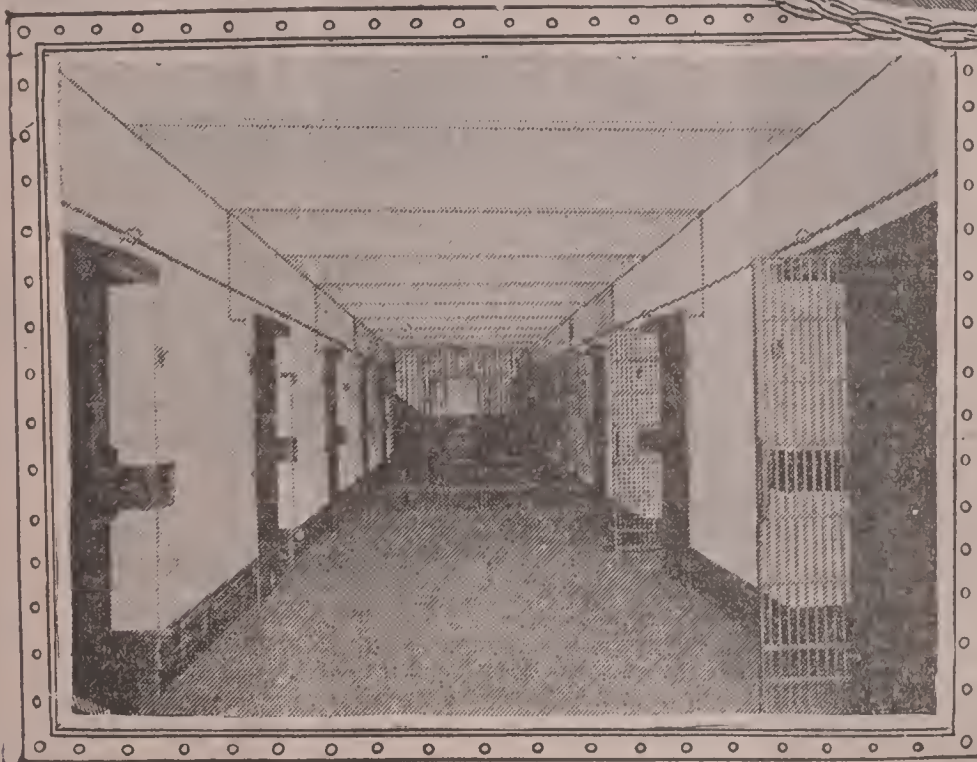
In most of the American prisons Americans are in a minority. At least, the immediate descendants of foreigners added to the aliens

the Irish constituted a majority of the occupants in Eastern penal institutions, but the people of this race are retiring before the in-rush of the Slav, the Italian, the Greek and even the Arab. French Canadians are the most plentiful contributors to the population of Concord Reformatory, they or their children numbering 162, while the Irish and their sons were only 149, and English 42. The commoner offenses are those of most

and so long as they hold office it will be impossible for younger men, students of penology, progressive, well trained, to secure places. All things considered, however, a satisfactory progress is made at Concord, and really surprising work is done both in the schools and the shops. Unlike Elmira, no company organization is established here, and there is no military drill. In the trade schools the men learn to cane chairs, weave



A CORRIDOR
CONCORD (MASS)
REFORMATORY



DEPARTMENT FOR INCORRIGIBLES
CONCORD REFORMATORY

raise the number high above that of the natives. Last year 671 persons were committed to this institution, and of this number only 183 were of American parents. Considering the character of European immigrants who have settled in this country for the past thirty-five years, there is nothing surprising in this. On the contrary, the readiness of the new people to accept the conditions they find here, to send their children to our schools, and, so far as they may, to abide by our laws, is commendable and remarkable. Formerly

American communities: assault and battery, stealing and drunkenness.

In Massachusetts there is a law making it mandatory to give certain positions to veterans of the Civil War, if they pass the examinations; hence, young, vigorous, especially trained and adapted men, who might be valuable as reformatory teachers, bosses and keepers, are kept out, and their places are taken by elderly men, not over strong or specially qualified. Few of those now in service are less than 55 years of age,

cloth, set type, make shoes, tinware and pearl buttons, do ordinary and some extraordinary blacksmithing, and make and carve furniture. The artistic ingenuity shown by some of the lads in the designing and ornamenting of woodwork excites wonder. Beside these matters a number of the men work on a farm of 750 acres, and shortly before his discharge the convict is put upon out-of-door work in order to bring color back to his face, harden his muscles, and take away the convict look that he might otherwise wear.

BETTER CLOTHES FOR GOOD CONDUCT.

On his entrance to the reformatory the student is shayed and sheared, but after that, as he is unlikely to acquire animated additions in or about the place, he is free to wear his hair and beard to suit himself. The new comer receives a rather rusty dress of black, and is informed that he is in the second grade. If he is punctual, industrious and progressive he is advanced to the superior grade, indicated by a suit of fresher black with a corporal's chevrons. A star in the crotch of the chevron marks a perfect record. If instead of progressing the boy is sulky and disobedient, he finds himself in the lowest grade, where he wears a suit of dull red. There is here, as at Charlestown, a department for incurrigibles where no less than 35 are housed at present. They are kept in solitary confinement, in cells of extra size—12 feet by 12 on the floor and 2 feet high—with windows closed by canvas, so that they cannot see out of doors. The usual cell is a trifle small, being 5½ by 9 feet and 8 feet high. It has running water and the inmates are allowed to add to the furniture

in small ways that will increase their comfort. The attitude of the staff toward their charges is authoritative yet kindly, and an earnest effort is made to foster every tendency toward a sane and honest life.

Mass is said in the chapel every Sunday morning, and not long ago there was a confirmation class, when the archbishop presided in full canonicals, and music was provided by the choir of inmates. In the schools it is evident that progress is made from the high percentages and the satisfactory nature of the examinations. The class in ethics tackles some large subjects, as you may see from this syllabus, which is offered by President Hyde of Bowdoin:

ments and the chances of his securing work. If all is favorable he gives his parole and the state pays his board for a week while he is brushing around and looking for a job. At the same time, the state keeps its eye on him, and if he returns to bad company, or is caught stealing, or gets drunk, or if he fails to report monthly for a year, he may be returned. There were fifty returns to the reformatory last year.

ONLY REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN.

In Sherborn, not far from Concord, is what was, till quite recently, the only reformatory for women in the country. It is not merely a state

requires good looks and vivacity. The success of some of these unfortunates in attracting remunerative attention is quite remarkable and seems unjustified.

Here, as in Concord, the effort is to teach and reclaim, rather than to punish. On entering the inmate is assigned to the second grade, whence she works her way upward to grade 4, and then leaves as soon as may be. She occupies a usual sort of prison cell at first—a cell in a corridor opposite a window, with a grated door and bare walls of stone, the only decoration being a picture cut from some publication and pasted on a cardboard, with explanatory text on the back. This picture is changed every week

Object.	Duty.	Virtue.	Reward.	Temptation.	Vice of Defect.	Vice of Excess.	Penalty.
Food and Drink.	Vigor.	Temperance.	Health.	Appetite.	Asceticism.	Intemperance.	Disease.
Dress.	Celeanliness.	Cleanliness.	Respectability.	Vanity.	Slovenliness.	Fastidiousness.	Contempt.
Exercise.	Recreation.	Cheerfulness.	Energy.	Excitement.	Morbidness.	Frivolity.	Obstruction.
Work.	Self Support.	Industry.	Wealth.	Pace.	Laziness.	Overwork.	Debility.
Property.	Provision.	Economy.	Prosperity.	Indulgence.	Wastefulness.	Miserliness.	Poverty.
Exchange.	Equivalence.	Honesty.	Self Respect.	Gain.	Disbonest.	Compliance.	Degradation.
Sex.	Reproduction.	Purity.	Sweetness.	Lust.	Prudery.	Sensuality.	Shame.
Knowledge.	Truth.	Veracity.	Confidence.	Ignorance.	Falsehood.	Gossip.	Bitterness.
Time.	Co-ordination.	Prudence.	Harmony.	Dissipation.	Procrastination.	Anxiety.	Distrust.
Space.	System.	Orderliness.	Efficiency.	Disorder.	Carelessness.	Red-tape.	Discord.
Fortune.	Superiority.	Courage.	Honor.	Risk.	Cowardice.	Gambling.	Shame.
Nature.	Appreciation.	Sensitiveness.	Inspiration.	Utility.	Obtuseness.	Affectation.	Stagnation.
Art.	Beauty.	Simplicity.	Refinement.	Luxury.	Ugliness.	Ostentation.	Vulgarity.
Animals.	Consideration.	Kindness.	Tenderness.	Neglect.	Cruelty.	Subjection.	Brutality.
Fellow Men.	Fellowship.	Love.	Unity.	Indifference.	Selfishness.	Sentimentality.	Strife.
The Poor.	Help.	Benevolence.	Sympathy.	Alienations.	Niggardliness.	Indulgence.	Antipathy.
Wrongdoers.	Justice.	Forgiveness.	Reformation.	Vengeance.	Severity.	Lenity.	Perversity.
Friends.	Devotion.	Fidelity.	Affection.	Betrayal.	Exclusiveness.	Effusiveness.	Isolation.
Family.	Membership.	Loyalty.	Home.	Independence.	Self efficiency.	Self-oblation.	Loneliness.
State.	Organization.	Patriotism.	Civilization.	Spoils.	Treason.	Ambition.	Anarchy.
Society.	Co-operation.	Public Spirit.	Freedom.	Self-interest.	Meanness.	Officiousness.	Constrait.
Self.	Realization.	Conscientiousness.	Character.	Pleasure.	Unscrupulousness.	Formalism.	Corruption.
God.	Obedience.	Holiness.	Life.	Self-will.	Sin.	Hypocrisy.	Death.

HARD QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS.

A recent examination paper required answers to questions like these: What is anarchy; how does it differ from socialism; what is co-operation; describe the co-operative store; what is the relation of co-operation to competition; show why co-operation succeeds in England and fails in America; what are some objections to socialism; what is society; why is society important in the study of ethics; how should mankind deal with the question, "Am I my brother's keeper?" what duty do members of society owe to each other; show how society is fulfilling its duty to the world. How many lads in the common schools could reply to all these?

A pamphlet is given to each man, in which he finds set forth the rules of the institution as well as good counsel and incentives to obedience. While there is no whipping every lad knows that misbehavior incurs a loss of privileges. Those in the first grade may be visited by friends once a month, but if they fall into the second grade the visits are restricted to one in two months, and in the third grade there can be no visiting. Again first grade men may write to friends every Sunday; second grade men every second Sunday, and third grade men, not at all. First and second grade prisoners may receive fruit and such like on Saturday, but the hebeticulous person in the lowest grade may consider himself fortunate to get hash. The diet is limited but wholesome and includes all the bread that the inmates wish, coffee in the morning and cocoa for supper.

The convict who is sent to Concord for five years for a felony may be released in one year, and the misdemeanor who goes there for two years is eligible for release on probation in nine months. The applicant for release is examined, privately, by one of the prison commission and its secretary, who send men to inquire and investigate as to his history, his home, his recent employ-

ment: at least strangers from as far away as Oklahoma are received there, provided their own states will pay board, to Massachusetts. In this place, too, the indeterminate sentence gives the power of liberation to the superintendent—a woman, by the by, for there are no men about the place except a few laborers and watchmen. No inmate has been sentenced for less than a year, but any convict may be released after that period, and most of them gain their freedom by agreeing to go out to domestic or other service. They are indentured to manufacturers or farmers in the neighborhood and, if no damaging reports are made about them, they are free for good and all. While at work outside they are not required to report, but the authorities know pretty well what they are doing.

Sherborn prison occupies three large parallel brick buildings on a hill and is surrounded by a wall, conspicuously lower than the wall of the average penitentiary or jail. You see, women cannot climb fences. Moreover, the windows are not barred, but merely covered with a net of heavy wire that a man criminal would spend most of his time in sawing. Men are better mechanics than women, but what is the difference, so long as women are so much better behaved that they do not need to be mechanics? The average number of residents in Sherborn is only 230. While the discipline is not severe, it is inflexible, and there are few attempts to overthrow it. Not even tantrums, the time honored privilege of the sex, are permitted now. This is a hardship, still one grows used to almost anything. Probably tantrums would not be much of a comfort, anyway, for most of the women are not of the nervous and impressionable sort. They are, as a class, lumpish in body and mind, prematurely old and dull of countenance. To succeed in some kinds of vice

and comes out of what is called the picture library. If bad behavior does not consign her to the low class, or grade 1, the inmate, who has been studied to make sure that she is not going to develop disease or insanity, advances to grade 3. Here she enjoys an immediate improvement in her state. She has a larger, higher, lighter cell, really a bed chamber, with a window commanding something of a view from its upper half, a better picture on the wall and wooden doors, locked, to be sure from the outside, but pierced with slats for ventilation. She also has a white spread on her bed and three times a week, at noon, she foregathers with her classmates in a recreation hall, where she occasionally hears music and where some of the officers read aloud.

LESS TALK, BETTER CONDUCT.

Formerly the inmates were allowed to converse at noon, but it was found that they never talked of anything elevating and most of them reverted to their old lives as subjects for conversation, so the talk was stopped, and the conduct and discipline immediately improved. Good conduct in the third grade soon makes a way for admission to the fourth, and in this the comforts are still greater. The cells, so called, are ample; each has a table, an electric light, a wider bed than in the other grades, with a husk mattress on it, the others being filled with straw. The pictures on the walls are still larger and better, there is a larger library to draw upon and the recreation room, with its papers and magazines, its caged birds, its plants and flowers, is cheery. Here the abler ones speak pieces and read from good books, and there are asking of questions and discussion. This room is open every noon and on Monday night. The study of authors has re-

cently been taken up and you shall hear discoursing on Whittier and Longfellow, and even on Browning.

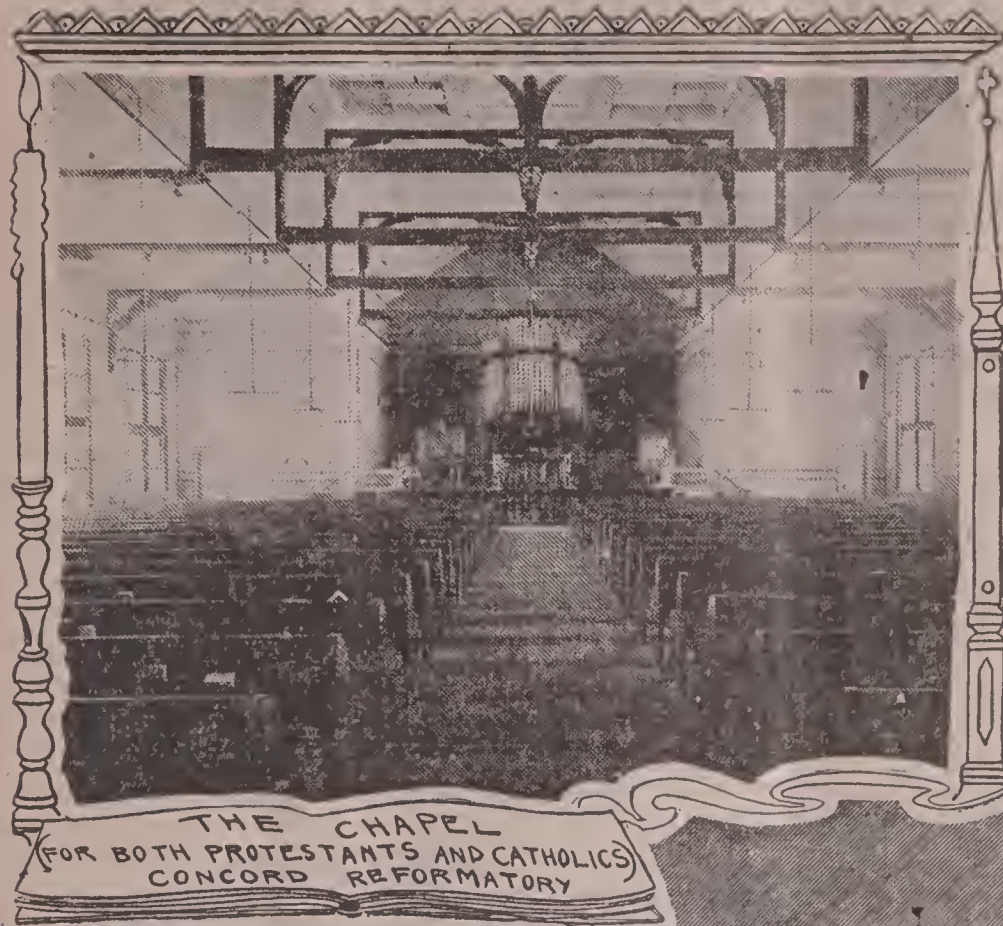
Also, there is a music class on Wednesday nights and progress has been made in this direction, a good choir having been picked for the chapel exercises. Music is to be heard in the chapel every evening, as well as in the Sunday services, which comprise Catholic mass, Protestant service and Sunday

CURES IN MORALS UNCERTAIN.

Regarding the cures in morals that are effected here, it would be impossible to give conclusive figures. It is said that women are more immediately amenable to good influences than men, but that they lapse into old ways more easily. As no watch is kept upon them after they have served their time, and as it would be ob-

REFORM BEGINS IN POLICE COURT.

Massachusetts does not wait till it has caged her criminal. She begins her reformatory process in the police court. There are in the state seventy probation officers, of whom two, in Boston, are women, whose duty it is to attend trials in the lower courts and where possible secure mercy for such as deserve it, as many do. It is odd to note the discrepancy between police reports and the findings of these agents and of reformatory officers. The police, of course, see the worst of people. A lad is caught stealing. Ergo, he is to be arrested and punished. It does not enter into the calculation of the policeman that the lad is not habitually a thief, and that he has been discovered in possibly the only serious offense of which he was ever guilty in his life. Those facts the probation officer does find, however, by inquiry in the home and work shop of the prisoner, and it is seldom that a judge refuses to listen to the pleadings of the agent. Forty thousand men and women who would otherwise have gone to jail or prison for slight offenses, to their disgrace and the distress of their families, have in ten years been set free on probation and have in the majority of cases lived up to their promises and given no trouble afterward. When a drunkard cannot be trusted with his money, yet works with tolerable steadiness so long as he has none to spend, the agent may receive his wages and give them to his family. One such family begged that the system be continued indefinitely, for it never lived so well when the "old man" took his Saturday wages as it had during the sixty days in which he had agreed to deliver his envelope to the probation officer and so stay out of jail.



THE CHAPEL
FOR BOTH PROTESTANTS AND CATHOLICS
CONCORD REFORMATORY

school. The low grade students eat from tin plates and cups, but the fourth grade women have a spacious dining room, with table cloths, china, salt shakers and palms on the table. The upper grades support a temperance society in which there are condolences, since it is not possible to secure anything stronger, except in case of illness. Of hospital cases there are more in proportion than in the men's prisons, yet the general health seems to be excellent.

The shops are large, clean, quiet and are under the watch of women only. It is only necessary to touch a bell to summon assistance, should any be needed, but obstreperous patients are very few, and there is at this time but one incorrigible in the place, and she is an idiot. The school rooms contain many grown women and learning comes hard to them. It hints at one of the reasons for misdirected life when middle aged people toil painfully through such informing matters as "Is it a cat? It is a cat," and slip up in adding four and four. That is, ignorance is one of the causes of misdoing among women, as it is among men. Women are taken here from the ages of 15 to 50. The grades are marked by differences in the plaid of the prison dress and trusties wear a little knot of red ribbon. In the pleasant chapel, with its flowers and plants, its pictures of the Virgin and the repentant Magdalen, it is significant that the great block of benches that takes most of the room is for the upper grade, and that all the other grades together make but little showing.



MESS HALL, CONCORD
REFORMATORY.

viously wrong to do so, and as many of them remove to other states, the actual value of the reformatory as a social or moral force cannot be estimated, but there is no doubt that it is high. The inmates acquire at least a primary schooling, and in making up shirts and other garments for occupants of various state institutions, they learn to sew. If also they learn to abstain from strong waters and society that is not nice, it is enough.

Nor is this all, for Boston is considering a plan for the prevention of crime, and this alone promises for the future of society. The plan is to weed out from the common schools the dull and defective and put them into institutions where they will be subjected to the best influences. The curfew law works well in several towns, but the power of the state to enter homes and schools and begin reforms in season is as yet lacking. But, prevention is better than cure.

Obsolete Systems.



BEST known of all the prisons in the new world is the one at Sing Sing, N. Y. Its fame is not due to its fulfilling the requirements of a modern prison—far from it—but to its nearness to New York and its occu-

pancy by celebrities who, from time to time, migrate "up the river" for the good of society and, it is hoped, for the good of themselves. It might be supposed that the big city would produce the biggest rascals, because it has the most and largest stakes for them and is best protected by politics against the righteous; yet, as a matter of fact, the small towns produce the same sort of depredators as the others, only there are fewer of them. New York City sends thousands of wrongdoers to jails, penitentiaries, reformatories and refuges, and spares only a regiment for the permanent population of Sing Sing. That is, its usual number of prisoners is about 1,300, and nearly all of these come from the city. What might be called the bounds of the Sing Sing district occur at the Atlantic on the south and the latitude of Poughkeepsie on the north.

The situation is beautiful. The Hudson, nearly at its widest here, stretches from the very walls of this place of gloom to the highlands, looking up-river, to the harbor looking down, and on the opposite shore the Hook Mountains take on their most rugged aspect, deplorably rugged since the quarrymen began to tear the shores of this loveliest of Eastern rivers into pieces. Immediately behind, above the prison, the bank rises steeply and is crowned here and there with villas and dotted with pleasant cottages. The scar of a limestone quarry is the only defacement. This quarry is worked by the convicts and it is of the stone that came from it that the prison was built.

Sing Sing village has just had its Indian name restored—Ossining—and it feels better. It says that it was so long associated with bad people that it was ashamed to look strangers in the face. But, bless its heart, doesn't it know that the prison at Ossining is the same as the one at Sing Sing? The real gain from the change of name will be the disappearance of Sing Sing from minstrel jokes—little jail birds that sing-sing, and all that sort of thing.

SING SING A TRANQUIL PLACE.

where the wicked seldom trouble and the weary often rest. Passengers flying toward Albany, over the tracks of the New York Central, have a momentary glimpse at the upper reach of the prison walls, pierced by hundreds of tiny windows, as the train runs through a cut, but it is a close mouthed place and tells little of itself to the passing traveler. This largest of the New York prisons was designed as a congregate establishment, and never isolates its occupants, except on Sundays, holidays and during the night. It is, in fact, the type of congregate house, thereby differing from the Philadelphia penitentiary, which, at least in theory, separates its inmates during their whole term of confinement, each man occupying his cell from the hour of admission till his release, and taking exercise only in a little yard behind his chamber. Whatever the merits of the Philadelphia prison—and Warden Johnson of Sing Sing concedes that there are several—there is no doubt that it is far and away the better of the New York institution in respect of architecture and adaptation. The Sing Sing barrack was put up in 1827, and has undergone no change since then. Offenders and those accused of offenses suffer a generous lack of consideration from legislatures and one might suppose, after visiting this place, that public opinion and public sense were to-day what they were sixty or seventy years ago. With Sing Sing for a landmark it is easy to see how far we have gone in that time. We no longer believe that any reformatory effect is to be gained by putting the prisoner into a cubbyhole that he must enter sideways by depriving him of light and air, and thereby injuring his sight and health to a degree that may impair his ability to earn his own living, and so continue him as a new burden on the community that sent him there; or, by keeping him under menace of death from fire.

PRISON WITHIN A PRISON.

The plan of Sing Sing is the common one of a prison within a prison. That is, there is a central structure, known as the cell block, which gives only on a corridor, the block being surrounded by an outer shell of masonry. Both shell and cell block are immensely, absurdly thick. The cell space allotted to an unfortunate is only 7 feet long by 6½ high by 3½

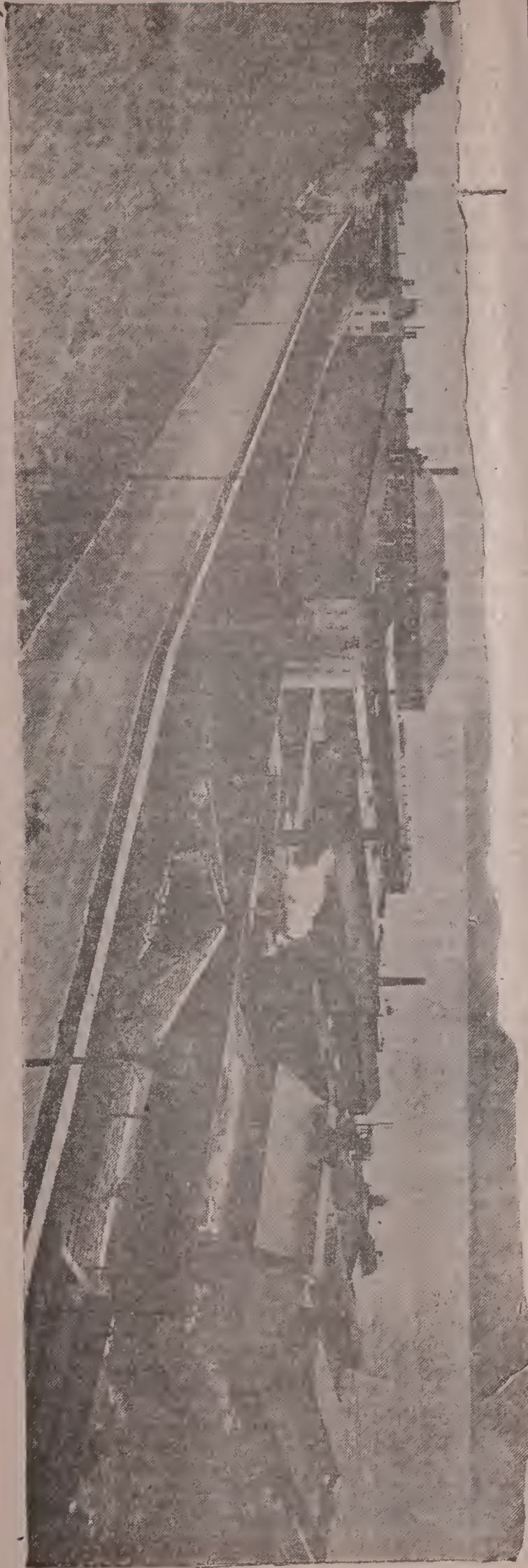
The village is half a mile from the stronghold and is a tranquil place

wide. Probably no other human beings in the world are cooped into such tiny spaces as this. And to make the scheme more absurd, although there was room enough when the prison was built to have spread it over 100 acres, if necessary, the cells are piled atop of one another to a height of no less than six tiers, necessitating a deal of stair climbing on the part of the prisoners and their guards, increasing the delay in assembling the men for work and in dispatching them to their cells at night, and especially bad in case of fright or danger from fire. The roof and galleries are of wood, now thoroughly seasoned by age and easily ignited by electric wire leakages. A wing was burned not long ago, and the lesson of the loss should have been heeded by the authorities. The main building is 500 feet long, 60 feet wide and is 60 feet from floor to roof. Even worse than the prison proper are the shops, which are flimsily constructed, antique and either made of wood or containing a good deal of timber. They are occupied only during the day, however, so that the danger from fire is reduced to a minimum.

The cells in which the convicts must spend the greater part of their time, for hard labor is merely a judicial term, and means eight hours, could easily have been a foot larger in each dimension, for the wall between them is 18 inches thick, and the door is a crack in the stone work, only 18 inches wide. A fat convict would have to be rammed home, like a cannon ball in ancient ordnance. When the resident is in for the evening he lets down his bed, which has been swung against the wall, and he has room then only for a few thoughts. In many penal institutions the cells have little bits of printing or painting or the knick-knacks that Mrs. Partington calls "momentums" from home; they have a rug on the floor, maybe; a shelf of half a dozen favorite books; a camp chair or even a potted plant.

CELLS ARE NONE TOO BIG.

When the Sing Sing man has insinuated himself into his quarters he is thankful that nobody ever gave him anything except a sentence, for he simply would not know what to do with it. There is a shelf above his door that would hold the most of a book, if the hinding was not thick, and there is room on the floor for a bucket and his coffee cup. There is no plumbing and the only ventilation is such as he gets from the windows across the corridor, the said window being but 24 inches high, 10 inches wide and crossed by iron bars—fellows have nevertheless wriggled through these peep



holes—while the only exit for foul air is a hole in the back wall about two inches in diameter, opening on a so-called air shaft a few inches wide, that separates the 600 cells on the east side from the 600 on the west. This may carry off the mearest trifle of exhausted air, but it is likely to be emptied into the cells above or below. To make a draft less possible the doors of the cells are veritable wickers of iron in the upper half, the flattened bars excluding light as well as air, and the lower part of the door, which might admit a little ventilation, is solid iron. The prisoner is supposed to have the breathing capacity of a mosquito and the strength of a Hercules. The only modern thing that has been introduced into the place is the electric light, which each man may burn till 11 o'clock, and which he sometimes burns to good purpose in study.

Although 1,200 windows in the huge building pierce the four foot outer shell, each window is so small that the light which enters the corridors is insufficient, and on a gloomy day the artificial lights are turned on in the boxes of the gallery men. The roof, too, overhangs in such a manner as to diminish the quantity. In short, the edifice is about as thoroughly out of date as it is possible for any house to be, in a country that prides itself on progressive tendencies.

A clever architect might be able to modify it, but the best modification would be its absolute destruction and replacement by a modern building. And there is a hint of modern methods in the wing that contains the keepers' offices, the mess room, the chapels and the upper room that will be a hospital so soon as the old wooden roof has been taken off and a new fireproof one of metal has replaced it.

SILENCE AT JOYLESS REPASTS.

The mess hall, on the first floor, two or three feet above the ground, is an immense room, and it is a notable assemblage that dines here every day. The men are marched in by companies and take their places at long tables of slate, each man seated on a stool and provided with a plate and cup of tin, a knife, fork and spoon and access to a wooden salt box that is passed from hand to hand, as it may be wanted. The meal is eaten in silence, save for such commotion as is made by the clatter of the dishes and silence best becomes a joyless repast like this. The place is none too light, and there is a displeasing odor of soap and soup and the indescribable effluvia from a crowd. Yet this is modern because it is built with a view to cleanliness and stability. It is of stone, cement and iron, hence is readily kept clean. The keepers stand between the tables and keep constant watch during the meal, and as the dinner party arises, by companies, and passes out, each man carries his knife, fork and spoon with him as far as the inner door and there, under the eye of the watchman, throws them into a box, whence they are taken away by the kitchen gang for washing. The object of this is to prevent the secretion of these articles about the clothing of the men, who might fashion them into tools to aid them in escapes, or even to use as weapons, though that is an absurd use to put them to.

PRISON WALL A WAILING PLACE.

Should you chance to visit the prison during the Passover you will see at the entrance to the dining hall at noon a company of a hundred men with faces to the wall, like the Jews at the wailing place in Jerusalem. They stand in close touch, conversing or mumbling in low tones, perhaps praying, and seeming in no wise concerned by the clash of teeth and rattle of dishes a few feet away. These prisoners are Jews and they are observing the Passover feast. Some of them will eat a matzoth, or wafer, of unleavened bread, but until the sun shall set few of them will take food. Most of the company have come here for setting fire to houses in order to obtain the insurance, and for other forms of swindling. A Jew does not often suffer imprisonment for violence. The state of mind that enables a man to set fire to a tenement and imperil the lives of his neighbors, but will not permit him to eat on a certain holiday, is curious enough to deserve more attention from psychologists and moralists and educators than it does, for it is a common state of mind.

On a recent fast day, when meat was forbidden, a benevolent looking old man in spectacles, whose years and infirmities had licensed him in making the request, hobbled to the head keeper, Connaughton, and asked if he might have a special meal of potatoes and onions. The keeper told him to go to the kitchen and get it, whereupon the old man dropped to one knee, and, taking the keeper's hand in both his own, kissed it fervently. It was a strange thing to see on American soil. As the convicts were marching to their cells that evening the keeper asked the old man if he had succeeded in obtaining what he wanted. With a seraphic smile he answered that he had, and, dropping on his knee again with the grace of practice, he grasped the hand of bounty with renewed enthusiasm. The prison fare is meager as to variety, as might be

expected, but not as to quantity. The men appear to be in good condition and it is said they have time enough to eat every meal, though I noticed that some of them were still eating when the signal came to rise and march out for work or exercise. The fare is hash and bread and coffee for breakfast, with a substitution of oatmeal for hash once a week; mutton stew, vegetable soup, salt codfish, pork and beans, potatoes or beef for dinner, with as much bread as each candidate wishes and a pint of coffee, without sugar or milk; for supper, which is eaten in the cell, there is only bread and coffee, but there is as much bread as the prisoner chooses to take. As they come in from the shops in companies, in double file, they pass into the main prison through a corridor in which stand two large trays. The first of these trays is filled with bread cut in slabs, about four to the loaf. The second, a step beyond, contains the same kind of bread, cut into slices of the usual thickness or thinness. As the companies enter the corridor they divide into single lines, and each man, as he passes, takes one of the big slices and as many of the smaller ones as he pleases, or he can leave the larger pieces and take the smaller ones only; but he can not take more than one of the bigger cuts. His coffee is in the cell when he reaches it, the runners having been there before him.

FRIENDS MAY SEND FOOD.

If the prisoner is fortunate in his friends outside, he fares less hardly, and if, as is commonly the case, he is of a sociable and generous disposition, his neighbors share his good fortune. For once in a month a convict may receive from the outside world a supply of as much as sixty pounds of refreshments, provided they are prepared for eating, for there must be no cooking of them on the premises. Hence, these contributions consist chiefly of canned goods, boiled hams, dried or prepared fruits, pickles, condensed milk and the like of that, which each recipient keeps in his cubby hole and prays that he may find when he comes back from work, for in the meantime the hall men will have been through his cell, sweeping and putting it in order, and a piece of Camembert cheese might as readily tempt the hall man as any other person. Liquors are barred, of course, and it is said that not even the condemned receive the traditional encouragement of a drop of brandy before being led to execution.

Which brings us to the most gruesome feature of the prison—its condemned cells. These are not in the main building, but in an apartment behind the office of the head keeper. They are somewhat larger than the older cells, as they should be when they are to be occupied for weeks, months, years at a time, and when the occupants are not allowed to exercise in the air for even a minute. Each man who awaits death in one of these cells is under the eye of special watchmen, day and night, but, wonderful to relate, the confinement and the scrutiny and the awful knowledge of coming death seldom grate on his nerves. His meals are passed to him through openings in the door, and if a friend or a lawyer sees him it is with a screen of bars to prevent a closer approach than five feet. In this narrow room, which he will leave only for the little chamber beyond, he eats, smokes and reads, and that is all.

DOOMED MEN NEVER COLLAPSE.

The head keeper, who has seen the execution of sentences on scores of murderers, says that he has never known of an instance where a man collapsed on the way to the gallows or the electric chair. Death is usually merciful, but the shame of it and the horrent enginery of legal destruction in a prison would make it hard for most men to face, even those who might lead a charge or face the leaden storm of a Fredericksburg without blenching. As a rule the man who is to be put to death on the morrow spends his last night in sound sleep and eats a hearty breakfast, walks to the death chamber without a tremor, and replies in a clear voice to the chaplain who gives his last consolations. It is to be borne in mind, however, that the murderer is commonly a man of little feeling, and it is likely also that his impending fate occasions a sort of numbness in his wits that prevents the full realization of what is coming. In a few instances, too, a man may possibly be sustained by the bravado of the ruffian and play his part to the last, sustained by a hope of impressing the weak minds he supposes to be capable of admiring the sort of man he is. Inordinate conceit is a common trait of criminals.

It is but a small minority of those who have taken the lives of their fellows who meet the fate they so rashly deal to others, and it is better so. There are extenuating circumstances even in murder that the courts cannot recognize, and in convictions on circumstantial evidence there is always the possibility that the jury is mistaken after all. Moreover, killing is but a return of brutality with brutality, and that is against the spirit of the age. There are but five occupants of the condemned row, while there are in other cells sixty who are "lifers," and may never achieve their liberty, albeit there is perhaps not one who does not sustain a hope of eventually receiving the governor's clemency. The oldest of the "lifers" is known as Paddy the Horse, because of his once great strength. He killed his wife and is expiating his crime in weakness and blindness—a permanent inmate of the hospital. The youngest is a sprig of a boy, a lad of 14, who killed a comrade in the Catholic Protectory a year or so ago and killed him in deliberation and cold blood. There is nothing in his appearance to suppose him to be the fellow that his act declared him. He is one of the best behaved of all the prisoners and works steadily, quietly, at a case in the printing office, whence issues one of the most remarkable papers in the country, the Star of Hope.

CONVICT PAPER UNCOMMONLY BRIGHT.

If they would let you subscribe for it you would find pleasure and profit in reading this bi-weekly. It is uncommonly bright and is written, edited and printed entirely by the inmates. There are correspondents and contributors in the prisons at Auburn, Dannemora and even the asylum for insane criminals, and the paper is given free to every guest of the state in those places. The moral tone of this sheet is unexceptionable. The literary quality is as high as in many publications of wider circulation and paid contents, and the hopes, the economic views, the recollections and observations of the writers are the more interesting because of their novelty and unexpectedness. The jokes are as tie-

king as any to be found in the humorous periodicals, and there are papers which disclose not merely ability but learning. The authors have been students, travelers, observers, gentlemen. The Star of Hope is a fulfillment of its name in more than one respect. It means not only the prisoner's hope, but a hope of the world for the prisoner.

Sing Sing is a so-called first grade prison. That is, it is intended for convicts who are serving their first term. As the courts do not always conform to this idea, and as New York City is the country's principal supply station of criminals and as Sing Sing is nearer to the metropolis than any other convict station, all kinds are received here as a matter of fact—70 per cent. of all in the state. The sixty murderers are token enough of that. Then there are nearly three score wards of the government, for this is one of the places where such can be received: coiners, smugglers (other than fashionable), bad men from government reservations, mail robbers, and so on. So nearly as may be, the older men in crime are kept apart from new comers, and the population is divided into three classes, the first consisting of new comers and tractable, who have steady work and all possible privileges, who become "trusties," or outside messengers, hall men, clerks, gang bosses and gardeners. The second grade consists of those who served one term behind the bars before. They are organized into separate companies and working gangs from the first grade men.

The third grade consists of old offenders, and to them are given the hardest and most unpleasant jobs about the place, though neither second nor third class men have steady employment. The three grades are distinguished by stripes that run longitudinally around their uniforms, the first grade showing the zebra marks, the second the same, except that the stripes are in pairs, and in the third grade they are trebled.

CONFINEMENT CURBS INCORRIGIBLES.

There is yet a fourth class, but it is small, and is made up of so-called incorrigibles, usually men with evil tempers who have never learned to control themselves, and who are constantly and purposely violating the rules, shirking work or exhibiting a surly or revengeful disposition. These men seldom work at all, but are confined in their cells and turned out only for occasional exercise. Solitary confinement usually brings them to terms in a few days, and it is a curious fact that many of the most desperate men make the best prisoners. The murderers, for instance, are a tractable community. The discipline of the whole body appears to be good, and there are no insurrections. It is, of course, understood that the prison of Sing Sing is for men and boys only. Women were formerly confined in a separate structure, on the hill opposite the larger building, but except when they have committed murder and are sent here to be killed, they are now lodged in Auburn.

A distinction is made between men of the different grades, not alone in their appearance and employments, but in the manner of their coming and going. The first grade men are paired and walk in military step, while in the older grades the lock step is required, the men facing away from the guards and marching as close together as possible, each with his hands placed light-

on the ribs of the man in front of him—a chance to trouble the ticklish members of the community. They must keep step even when the line comes to a temporary stand, as it does when passing the bread trays at supper time. The shuffling step sounds over the stone floors like the gasp and whish of a steam engine.

It is said that women are quite intractable in this matter of keeping step, and that they must even be allowed to go their own gait. Recently marching drill has been introduced and bands of men are to be seen going through their paces in the yards behind the institution under the orders of a keeper. The drill is a good thing, not merely because it takes the men into the air, but because it accustoms them to ways of order and promptness, increases their power of self-control and improves their physique, for which reasons not all of them like it.

Work in the shops was almost suspended while the unions were assailing prison labor, but now that the limitations are understood the shops are places of much activity. There are employments of variety and each man is soon fitted to his work. All the products



IN THE PRISON YARD
AT SING SING



WHERE THE STONE CUTTERS WORK

SOME ARE HOPELESS INVALIDS.

The invalids do not include all in the hospital, where about twenty men will usually be found, some of them consumptives, who will never leave the place on foot, and the forty men classed as idle are new prisoners, in quarantine for twelve days, the object of this isolation being to discover if they have or have not any infectious disease, or if they are insane. The population is of course fluctuant, for second term men belong in Auburn Prison and sometimes go there, and third term offenders go to Clinton or Dannemora, while the insane are secluded in the asylum at Matteawan. Whether or not the most of the occupants of this house go back to forbidden ways, it is estimated that not more than five in a hundred reappear at Sing Sing. That gives no hint as to the effect of the prison cure on crime, because it is natural to suppose that few of the inmates return to their old haunts or resume their illegal practices among men who know their history. They drift away to other states.

It rests with most of the inmates whether they will return to the world better or worse, but the agencies for advancement are more and better than in the districts of the city whence most of them came. There is, for example, a well picked library—well picked, because “thud and blunder,” as one man described it, has been culled out, and this library contains 8,000 volumes. There is a school which is attended by a number of promising and even performing pupils, who may take their books and slates with them to their quarters. There are not at this time any Eugene Arams in the company, yet it would be possible to make an exhibition of scholarship to surprise the outsiders. In the library, to accommodate these social misfits there are books in French, German and Hebrew, as well as in the vernacular.

go to state prisons, asylums, schools and hospitals. A recent daily summary will give the extent and nature of the employments, as well as anything else, and here it is:

Warden's house	5	State shop	42
Barn	2	Clothing department	74
Offices	26	Shoe department	49
Waiters	35	Brush and mattress department	49
Hall	48	Printing and stationery department	37
Bake shop	9	Cabinet shop	67
Store house	6	Sash and door	36
Laundry	28	Drawing and carving	39
Tobacco factory	1	Condemned men	5
Mess room	52	Yard companies	66
Jobbing shop	127	Company D (incorrigibles)	12
Knitting	90	Invalid	8
Hosiery	58	New men received	40
Mat (second grade men)	281		
Stone cutting	37	Total	1,348



DINING ROOM
AT SING SING

Catalogues are in the shops, where they may be easily referred to, and it is of interest to know that there is a considerable demand for scientific works, especially those dealing with electricity. And this is a religious community in its way. There are chapels for Protestants and for Catholics, with mass twice a month, and there are Jewish services at monthly intervals, while missionaries and clergymen have moderately free access to the place, the prisoners holding their interviews with these comforters in the warden's office.

VOLUNTEERS' LEAGUE CHEERS CONVICTS.

Then there are 650 members of the Volunteers' Prisoners' League, a society that was organized by Mrs. Booth, and that is occasionally addressed by her and her fellow workers. The Volunteers promise "by God's help" to pray morning and night, to read the Day Book, of scriptural selections, to refrain from bad language to observe prison rules, to cheer and encourage others in right living. Then there is a Bible class in charge of the chaplain, who is a Methodist, and there are meetings in charge of women on week afternoons, from 1 o'clock to 4. A convict band of twenty pieces plays for religious services.

On entering the prison a man is made to bathe, is shaved, has his hair cropped close, and these marks are not to be changed until he is nearly ready to go out, when he is allowed to grow whiskers or any other sort of facial ornament or concealment, that there may be no convict stamp on him when he leaves. He also has a little money coming to him—a matter of a few dollars or a few cents, according as he has been good or bad, or as his term has been long or short. The state allowance to each is but a cent and a half a day, or 3 cents at the most, according to the earnings of his department, but if

he is riotous or disobedient and must be put into a dark cell he loses 50 cents for each day so confined.

While in the state's custody he must not write to or receive visits from any other person who is or has been a criminal, nor can an ex-convict write to him or visit the prison. As to convict associations it is destructive of the notion that there is honor among thieves to learn that many of them will "give way" on one another when they discover old pals and prison mates in the shops.

PRISONERS BETRAY THEIR FORMER PALS.

For instance, a man who has given his pedigree to the warden and has solemnly sworn that he has never been put into prison before, may be confronted in the shoe shop or carpenter shop by a man who once helped him to break into a house. This older resident will not unlikely report the history of the new comer to the keepers, and the new man will be assigned to harder work and worse associates in the other grades, or he may be handcuffed to some member of a party of emigrants and forwarded to Auburn or Dannemora. The object of thus revealing the newcomer's identity? Oh, anything; jealousy, old grudges, fear of encounters, fear of exposure, hope of reward.

As a prisoner advances in the confidence of his officers his chances for promotion to "soft jobs" increase. He becomes a runner. He goes outside the walls on errands. And it is the man on long sentence who oftener "arrives" than does the man whose offense has merited less opprobrium. His long years inside the walls chasten his spirit and bind his legs with rheumatism. It may be, nevertheless, that on his first outing, when he has been sent, for instance, to the quarry, or the gro-



THE SHOE SHOP.

cery, he will be overcome by his opportunities and will escape swiftly to the wilderness, and of all wildernesses that of the east side of New York City is the most effectual for hiding, provided he can change his conspicuous convict rig for the customary habiliments of society.

It is odd that men who have served patiently and faithfully and are within a few days of their discharge should run away rather than wait and receive their clothes, belongings and a clean bill of moral health; but none knows the charm of liberty so well as they who have lost it; and, again, it may

be that the fugitive has committed crimes elsewhere that he fears may have been traced to him and that on the expiration of his term he will find a sheriff from some other state awaiting him at the door with a requisition and a pair of bracelets in his pocket.

The escapes are few; probably not more than one in a year; and are practically all of trustles. There is a constant study to defeat the scrutiny of the authorities, however, and odd devices have been discovered. One man crawled into a barrel, allowed that barrel to be filled with swill, and in that unsavory vehicle was carried into a vacant lot and dumped. Caution is constantly used to prevent these disappearances.

CELLS LOCKED IN TWO WAYS.

On quitting the shops at evening the companies are marched silently across the yards and through the corridors, where they draw their rations, and so to their cells. Each man closes his door behind him and a keeper follows, locking it with a key. When a company of fifty has entered there is a harsh clang of metal and the long bar that falls across the tops of the cell doors has been thrown into place. With this bar, nearly 300 feet long, across the doors, no man could leave his cell even were it unlocked. To let in one belated clerk or runner the bar must be lifted, but nobody can then escape, as each cell is locked with a key. The 1,200 cells are locked in eight minutes.

This shutting of a human being into a dark, narrow hole in a stone wall was not originally accounted as punishment at all. The poor devil might be kept from the light and air and happiness for months and years while waiting the pleasure of a king or a nobleman, or the willingness of lawyers or judges to try him, and his punishment, which came later, took the form of death by beheading or hanging (or shooting or burning. Now, behold, the mere prerogative of those who wielded the law is become punishment itself, and God knows it is usually punishment enough. Rebellious and dangerous fellows are not in these days exposed to the ignominy and suffering of castigation.

The Legislature of New York has, wisely or otherwise, abolished all forms of capital punishment in the prisons of the state. The dark cell with a bread and water diet is now the only punishment for the refractory. There was once in vogue a method that was said to have worked reforms in every instance, inside of thirty seconds, and it did not carry with it any exposure or shame. It consisted in putting handcuffs on the culprit and hanging him by these gyves to an upward sliding hook. The strain on his arms from this was more than he could stand and he always promised to be good. A curious relic in the head keeper's office is an iron cage worn over the head as a punishment for talking or turning the head or failing to keep step. Spanking was in vogue some years ago, and, that too, was efficacious, but the victim left the whipping post roaring vengeance and threatening sudden death on all who were concerned in the performance. Yet there are a few men so callous that nothing less than physical pain seems to have any effect on them, and

there is no doubt that in our cities hoodlumism could be broken up in a day by vigorous applications of the public lash, in lack of the domestic slipper.

EIGHT-HOUR SYSTEM AT SING SING.

The hours for work in Sing Sing are only eight in the day, but the turn-out whistle blows at half past 6. Breakfast is at 6:45; work begins at 7:30 and lasts till 11:30; dinner is ready at noon and over at half past 12; work is then resumed till 4:30. The homeward march begins at 4:45 and all except a few clerks are in and locked up at 5:30. There is a double count after lockup, each man standing at his door till the keepers have gone by. Of keepers and guards there are ninety, their work being arranged in shifts, the night men going on at 5:30 P. M. and remaining on duty till 6:30 next morning, when the day men take their places. In twelve glass windowed turrets on the walls stand twelve guards with loaded rifles in their hands, ready to shoot at a moment's notice. The corridor guards at night do not carry guns, but revolvers, and the keepers who go among the men at their work grasp thick canes. The guards on the walls are dismissed as soon as the prisoners are in for the night.

Of all days of the week, Sundays and holidays are most dreaded, for then the convicts are locked into their cells, and when a holiday directly follows a Sunday it means that a man will be locked in without work or exercise for more than sixty hours, save for such liberty as he has in chapel. Sunday services are fixed for 8:30 A. M. and the locking in is at 11, when the men take their dinners with them. The first two or three nights of incarceration are usually the worst for a prisoner. He is restless and nervous, and usually asks for tobacco. Every prisoner has a moderate allowance of the weed, which he can smoke or give to a cell mate as he pleases, for seventy-five of these wretched little cigarettes are double-bedded. The prisoner has a state ration of two papers of tobacco a week, which he may smoke in a pipe. The poisonous cigarette is not permitted, because of its suffocating stink, and cigars are not allowed because that would be to introduce class distinctions. Some fellow might receive from a friend outside a real Havana that would make of him a subject of such envy that he would be drubbed at the first opportunity.

ONCE IN TWO MONTHS. VISITORS ALLOWED

Yet his friends may send pie. Relatives and friends may visit Sing Sing but once in two months, and must then come in a body, so that two months will elapse before the prisoner can see any one from the outside world again. Beside food these friends may carry to him underclothes, stockings, and handkerchiefs, but there can be no substitute for the uniform, the coarse striped shirt, or the heavy shoes. Once in a month the convict is allowed to write to his people, though they may write to him every day, if they like. All letters and parcels are exam-

ined before giving them to the prisoner. People who visit him are not usually searched, while the prisoner is inspected before he goes to meet them. This reversal of the usual custom was caused by the killing of his wife by a man in this prison. She had gone to see him, and he stabbed her with a knife that he had been using to pare potatoes with and had concealed in his jacket. Jealousy was the supposed motive for the crime.

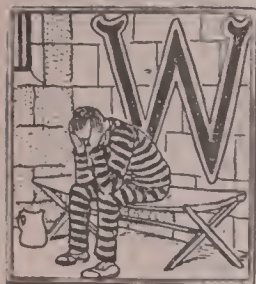
In his cell the prisoner is alone with his thoughts, and society is requiring to know whether those thoughts are revengeful or dolorous or comforting. If they are revengeful and he is embittered against his fellows, then the object of punishment is not achieved. It is doubtful if the awakenings used with such success in the reformatories of half the states in the union might not be attempted here, most of the inmates being young and beginners in wrong doing. The effect of lectures and even of occasional amusements, to stir into activity minds that are dull and brooding, would be worth experiment.

SCHOOL DOES MUCH GOOD.

The school does unquestioned good and in the so-called art school, where the men learn to carve, the best artist is a negro—the contemplation of forms of grace and beauty cannot but affect for the better the thoughts of the workers. Music might have a good effect likewise, as it does everywhere, but there is none of it in the prison, except that a few men are allowed to own and to play softly on violins, banjos or guitars. Work in gardens, too, would be for the mental and possibly for the moral health of many, but there is small occasion for such work, as the farm of six acres is made to yield little except vegetables for the officers' tables.

It is a sad, strange procession, that of the evil regiment, marching to its barracks; weak faces there, vicious faces, faces scarred with knives and bullets, faces scarred and blotched by foul diseases, foxy faces, mean faces, faces that stink, crafty, hypocritical faces; yet withal, good faces, kind faces, faces marked more by sorrow than by sin, faces that reveal gentleness. Not many are sulley; most are dull. The faces of the negroes are the happiest of all. There is little complaint. As one of the men says, "Oh, we are treated all right. It's a man's own fault if he isn't. He can make this place pleasant or uncomfortable for himself, as he pleases." This indicates the possibility of maintaining a philosophic frame of mind amid the most unpromising surroundings. It has been remarked that stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage; minds innocent and quiet take that for a hermitage. The innocent and quiet mind is not the average mind in Sing Sing, it is feared, yet none can watch the passage of the company from or to its cells who does not feel that here is a neglected duty; that the society which is so apt in punishment is not so apt in prevention; and that, no matter how forbidding the mark, every countenance among these hundreds is the face of a brother; the sign of an immortal soul.

The Indeterminate Sentence.



WITH the establishment of the New York State Reformatory at Elmira, a step was taken in the march of progress that there is no retracing. It beat down the hindering weeds of prejudice and fogylsm, and made

more plain the way for what must follow. Until that time we, in this progressive country, had given little thought to the problems of the criminal, and we still give far too little for our own profit and safety. Until that time the criminal was, in our view, an outlaw, as he still is, and without hope or chance of change, as he is not.

It is to Zenas R. Brockway that the offender owes a new hope and brighter chances. This man's life of four score has been devoted to the study of the criminal and management of prisons. He urged the adoption of the indeterminate sentence for young offenders, whereby a superintendent assuming that he is a man of intelligence and qualified to judge, might shorten a convict's punishment and restore him to a useful and honorable life, when he saw that in the character and behavior of any one of his charges which would warrant his release. This he can do by suggestions to the board of managers. Criminals are alike in the eyes of the law. Courts deal only with results, never with causes. The boy who, in a fit of passion, or when tempted by hunger, or when under the influence of evil associates, lapses into crime, though for the one time in his life, is to be dealt with as harshly as the professional thief, the conscienceless brigand.

We are beginning to see the mental absurdity and moral wickedness of this. It is a matter into which sentiment does not enter—merely plain sense—and the Elmira Reformatory is a monument to justice, rather than a concession to pity or any soft and unwarranted emotions aroused by contemplation of the pains of those who have made others suffer. It is a prison, but it is also a school. It is the end of a wrong career, and beginning of a right one. Its purpose is to repress what should be repressed, and but to lift all that makes one worthy to associate with his kind.

REFORMATORY PLAN ALWAYS WORKS WELL.

has any state gone back to the old Mosaic or vindictive law when the spirit of Christianity has appeared among its people and has declared itself in legislation or in practices that give to the criminal the chance that is his warrant by virtue of his earlier lack of chances. Wherever the reformatory method has been installed it has stayed, and instead of growing narrower it is ever widening. It is a trite old proverb that vinegar never catches flies, but molasses does, and to the

And it is significant that in no instance

wonder of the world it has been proved within the century that gentle methods encourage gentle conduct, while harshness brings out an answer of all the harshness that is in the nature of the recipient.

Elmira is a pleasant little city of thirty odd thousand, high, cool, and inclosed by hills of heavy outline that border the Chemung valley and are whitened with snow as late as April. The reformatory, with its appertaining shops and the farm that supplies much of food to it, stands on a slope and enjoys a view. Many of its occupants are in rooms that do not command much of this view, and even in the yards their outlook is limited, for the usual high wall is built about the structure and the usual guards with guns walk along its top and watch from their platforms and conning towers. A long, fair lawn spreads down before the building and gives dignity to that structure—an architectural performance that has a certain old fashioned pomp, but is over ornamented on the outside with gables and turrets and conical roofs. Simplicity is best becoming to prisons and nothing better for the purpose was ever devised as to external architecture than the mediaeval castle, which has fitness, since the ancient donjons were the prisons of their time.

The main building of the reformatory is a long construction from which three wings are given out to the rearward, and the circuit of the whole cell block, as made by watchmen on bicycles, is half a mile. There is an improvement on some of the older institutions of the kind in the reduction of the cell tiers to four, and wherever ground is cheap and plenty there is no reason why there should be even so many as this. Wood was used in the stairs and galleries, but the place is reasonably safe and has appliances for dealing with fire. The shops are stronger and better built than those of Sing Sing, and there is a drill hall large enough for the maneuvers of a regiment. The cells are fairly commodious, but they are insufficient in number, and it has, therefore, been necessary to double up the inmates—a proceeding that is objectionable and unwise when it can be avoided, and which results in the practice of some vice and the teaching possibly of more. Perverts, especially those who affect an effeminate manner, used to be sent elsewhere as soon as possible, to finish their terms in Sing Sing or Auburn; but they are now kept in separate cells and are put through severe drill.

GOOD CONDUCT. EARLY RELEASE.

The inmate—he is never called a prisoner or a convict—has hope of an early release so long as he behaves himself. He is sent to Elmira for the very purpose of securing it, if he proves worthy. A determinate sentence imposes, we will say, a term of five years for a certain sort of stealing. If the thief is young he can be sent to the reformatory, and there held for the whole five years, should he be stubborn, disobedient and have no wish to progress; but if he is an average inmate he may leave in a year. Some have left in a

year and a half, and the average time for each man is but two and a half years. It is commonly supposed that the institution is for boys alone, but such is not the case. It is for offenders between the ages of 16 and 30, but if one were to be sent, say at the latter age, on a charge that carried with it a maximum penalty of ten years, he could be detained there till he was 40. There are few instances of this sort, and the average age is 22. For the very young offenders there are other institutions, like the State Industrial Schools at Randall's Island, New York City, and Rochester.

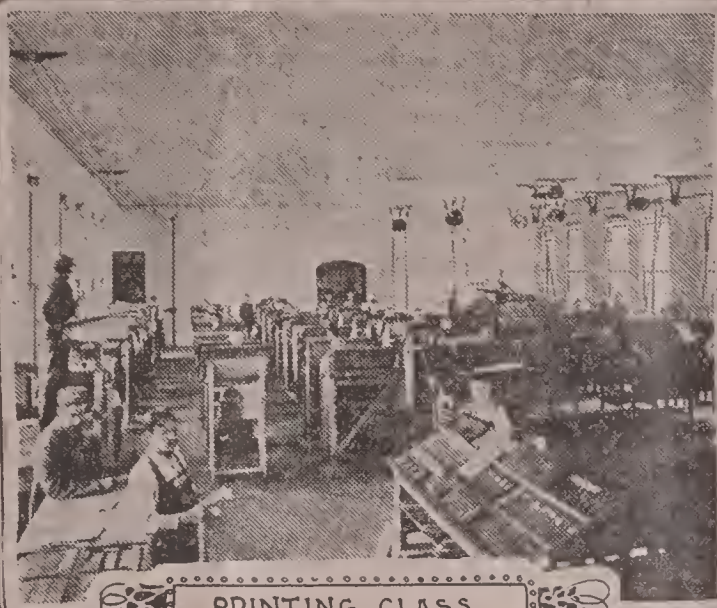
The parole system which is exemplified at Elmira is similar to the ticket of leave, by which England softened the asperities of exile to her colonial prisons. Any convict proving himself worthy of confidence and exhibiting a due repentance might receive one of those warrants which would entitle him to return to England and remain there, under the eye of the police, to be sure, so long as he continued to be honest, sober and industrious, but which could be canceled at any moment if he did not fulfill the hopes of his former keepers.

In Elmira the lad who is sent there from New York—nine-tenths of all inmates are from the cities, with New York far in the lead—is questioned and examined by the superintendent to determine his physical condition, mental and moral status and possibilities, and in due time he is put into a class, where he must learn the things that he has commonly avoided learning at the public school. He is likewise sent to a trade school to learn to make shoes or paint signs or do some one of many things. Also he is put into the awkward squad and delivered into the hands of a drill sergeant with instructions to convert him into a soldier, or as near like one as possible.

LIBERTY GIVEN BY DEGREES.

After he has been subjected to these lifting and benignant influences for a season he is put to the test. He is released on parole, work being invariably found for him in advance, the agreement being to report at the beginning of every month his whereabouts, his occupations, and his behavior. Usually this report is substantiated by an employe or guardian, and usually it is satisfactory. If he omits to report, or attempts to run away to some other state, the detectives are after him, and he is back at the reformatory with a foolish countenance and self-reproaches in his heart.

During the last school year 1,500 of the young fellows who would otherwise have been drifting about the Bowery and other such resorts, were equipped with better understandings and taught to use their hands. The trades here are barbering, bookbinding, brass-smithing, brick-laying, cabinet making, carpentry, cloth cutting, dynamo tending, frescoing, hardwood finishing, horse-shoeing, house painting, iron forging, machinist, machine wood work, molding, music, paint mixing, plastering, plumbing, printing,



PRINTING CLASS



STONE CUTTING CLASS



LATEST PHOTOGRAPH OF NEW YORK STATE REFORMATORY AT ELMIRA (FRONT VIEW)

Ernest.



CARPENTER CLASS



MACHINISTS CLASS

shoemaking, sign painting, steam fitting, stenography and type writing, stone cutting, tailoring, telegraphy, tinsmithing and upholstery. It pacifies the labor unions to know that all the work of the reformatory, competent as some of it is, is a dead waste except in so far as the immediate needs of the institution are concerned, since none of it is sold, and it is all destroyed as soon as done, that it may be done over again, for practice sake. The brick walls, for example, are not dry before they are pulled down, and the brick is fairly worn out by handling. There were formerly classes in cooking, pattern making and photo engraving.

Beside fitting the criminal to go back into the world and take care of himself, the work in the trade schools and the shops is of value as a discipline. The busy man has less time than the other sort of man for evil thoughts and evil actions; he has a better grasp on himself in time of need; he has a better physique and a quicker mind than the idler; he rises to emergencies when it is necessary to affect others by direction or example, and the military instruction is also in line with this work, inasmuch as it is an aid to habits of order and neatness, of prompt obedience and attention, and it serves a purpose also in toughening the muscles and lightening the steps of the men. Many of the inmates do not like the drill. They have not been used to taking orders, and they are not in the habit of thinking quickly, so that they may spend a long time in the awkward squad; yet they make a good appearance when on parade, with their dummy guns and their band roaring down the drill court. The military officers are guards, excepting the lieutenants, who are also monitors and are chosen from

days before they attempt it. Among the newer comers mental as well as physical atrophy is common, and, as might be expected, some are not greatly removed from a state of idiocy. The treatment of unfortunates of that class is almost like the treatment of infants. They are built up materially, as they will presently be built up morally and mentally, and a constant effort will be made to stir aspirations and emotions that in their dull lives they have never experienced. About 60 per cent. of the men are illiterate on their arrival. As the school director says:

"They have no interest in any subjects except those related to the mere physical side of existence. They have no intelligent interest in what is going on in the world about them. Their stock of ideas is exceedingly small. Their imagination is limited. They have never formed the habit of persistent work. They have followed the line of least resistance, without regard to law or order in themselves or toward the community."

Some of the men are so undeveloped that they are unfit for even the primary classes and are put into a sort of kindergarten, while the many foreigners are grouped by themselves until they have learned to speak English.

The lessons are such as are taught in the common schools, and are supplemented by lectures and debates and the use of papers and books from the well picked library of 3,000 volumes. The lowest and largest division studies arithmetic and language and on Sunday it has elementary instruction in American history and biography. The second division has arithmetic and language also, and on Sunday meets for instruction in nat-

them. He is examined afterward to test his memory and understanding, and in these tests he usually shows an ever-increasing interest and ability to remember and reason. The nature studies touch the imagination, especially when they deal with elemental forces and astronomy, and when the imagination wakes so also do seriousness, reverence and religious feeling.

ETHICAL CLASS ODDEST OF ALL.

Oddest of the school divisions is the ethical class. Mind, this is not to be confused with religious teaching. There are Protestant, Catholic and Hebrew services at stated intervals, but attendance is not compulsory on any of them. In the ethical class, which meets on Sunday, the effort of the leader is to so shape the debates and discussions that the men will find themselves arguing for better behavior and persuading one another against immorality and giving the reasons for their new attitude. One of the brightest debaters at one of the sessions which I attended was a little Hebrew who had been sent to the reformatory for forgery. To hear him talk on egoism and altruism, on self-sacrifice and social duties, was absolutely refreshing. And there was never a doubt that he meant it. Another case was not so promising. The professor in charge called an intelligent looking chap to his feet, and, following the line of argument, which was that we are led to do right not merely from the movings of conscience but because right is public policy and the only possible basis for society, he said:

"Now, Smith, I hear good reports of you. They tell me you are getting on well in your studies, that you have learned your trade, you have been promoted in your company. Now this means that you are working hard. Why?"

And Smith did not say that it was because his conscience prodded him, or that he wanted to be altruistic. He merely remarked, "Cause I want to get out."

On admission the young man is put into a suit of rusty black, and sent to the trade school and the school of letters. In six months, if he has shown progress, he is advanced from the black to the blue class, which is distinguished by a dress of gray blue, and which enjoys certain privileges, such as that of talking during meals, and obtaining a wider variety in his ration. If, however, he does not advance, is sulky or obstreperous, and requires discipline, he is degraded into the red class, where he may think that he looks prettier, on account of his crimson breeches and jacket, but where he certainly can not feel prettier. After six months in the blue class he is eligible for parole, and after six months on parole he is eligible to release.

There is a theoretical wage as payment for work in the shops or on the 300 acre farm, and against this sum is entered all the prisoner's expenses for clothes, food, medicine and so on, but unless he is an ill behaved lad he can hardly help a little balance creeping up in his favor, and when he leaves the institution this balance is given to him. It will average \$10 and has been as much as \$30. With this he can support himself for a few days, at least until he has found employment or has been received by his friends. Most of the men return to the cities, whence nine-tenths of them came, and most of them live honestly ever after, although the trades union about New York make it as hard as possible for them to find work, or keep it.



UPPER FIRST GRADE
DINING ROOM

the best behaved inmates, and the claim is made that 75 per cent. of the company could be brought up to the West Point standard of drill under favorable circumstances of isolation and special instruction.

GYMNASIUM WORK IS COMPULSORY.

Beside the drill, there is gymnastic practice, and this is compulsory on most, albeit some of the lads are so feeble when they arrive that they are put on extra diet and allowed to rest for some

ural history or some subject suggested by nature. The upper class, the ethics division, consisting of about 300 men, adds to the commoner branches history and literature.

The lectures were in the past given by men of all professions and were wide in the range of subject, but in lack of special appropriations for the purpose they are now given principally by officers of the institution. Maps, drawings and stereopticon slides are used for illustrative purposes, and the scholar is encouraged to read up on the subjects and to ask questions pertaining to

SYSTEM REFORMS GREAT MAJORITY.

Yet, reports differ about the after conduct of reformatory graduates. Some allege that it is the sly ones who are soonest released. There is no kind of doubt that in a great majority of cases they leave the place better than they entered it and become worthy citizens. Yet it may be the luck of some person to see the failures. One man who wanted to be good and who has employed at various times the former inmates of one of the largest reformatories in the country, said that he had labored with eight of them and they all "went back on him."

As against this experience it is well to cite another. A certain inmate of the Elmira reformatory obtained an early parole and release, went into business in one of the cities of the middle states, and prospered. He never lapsed, but was an honest citizen to the end of his days—maybe to the end of yesterday, for he is probably living. He was proposed for membership in the principal club of the town by the most influential member of it. As his history was well known there were threats of almost unanimous blackballing. But the influential member, whose money had a good deal to do with the club's existence, remarked, "Well, gentleman, you can elect him or drop me, as you please." And the "prison bird," as he had been called, was elected and has never done anything to forfeit his membership.

The Elmira institution was much in the public eye a few years ago, because of the publicity given to the practice of paddling refractory inmates. Paddling is spanking with a piece of leather. One of the yellow journals started an outcry, and published a series of alarming rumors, accompanied by pictures of glaring and furious men putting the prisoners to torture and death, and, as always, there was a loud wail of sympathy from those who knew nothing about the matter. It was declared that the knock-down-and-drag-out method was in constant practice and the Legislature passed a law against corporal punishment in all the institutions of the state. The practice was not general in our institutions. It was seldom excessive in individual cases, and the power to check impudent and rebellious fellows who fear nothing but physical pain was an important one. Many prison officers to-day believe it would be well to restore it.

Dr. Robertson, the successor of Mr. Brockway, gives no floggings, but it is said that he once chained a refractory inmate to face the wall of his cell for twenty-eight days, ten hours a day—a worse punishment than spanking.

WHEN SPANKING IS NEEDED.

As an instance of what one may have to put up with when he is a prison superintendent, if he has no power to punish, it will suffice to tell of a famous burglar who served a term or two in Elmira. He was the son of a thief and his mother was a shoplifter, so the best was not to be expected of him. One evening, while he was at the end of a line of men descending the gallery stairs, he seized a lighted lamp and hurled it among his comrades. The burning oil, flying in all directions, might have killed several of them and might also have set fire to the stairs and galleries, but by a miracle it did not. And the only reason for this act was that the fellow wanted excitement, or felt ugly. Isn't that a case for

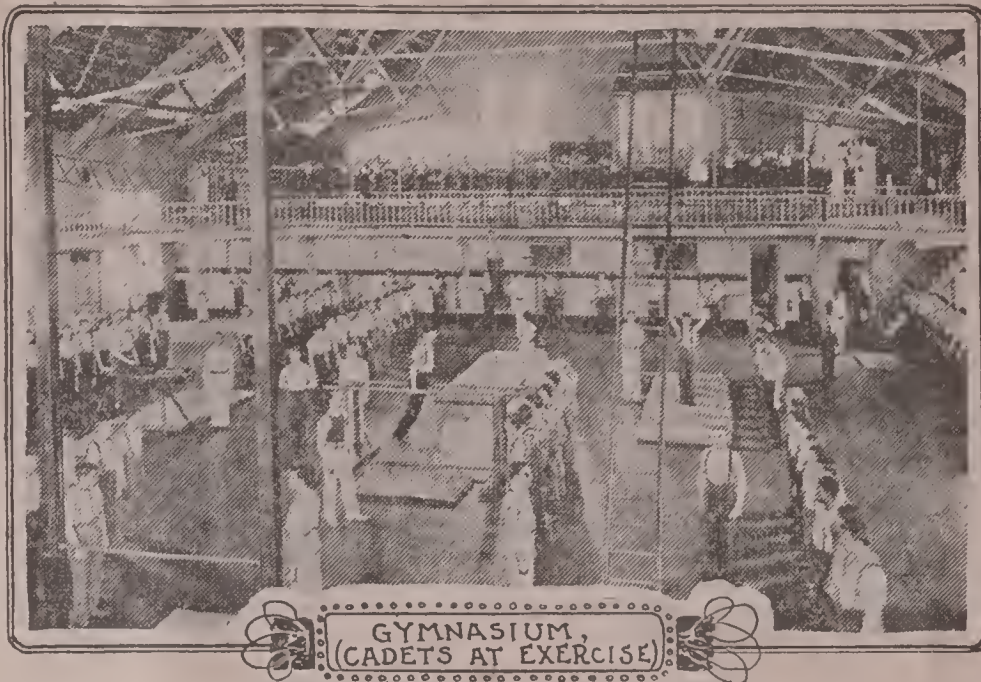
spanking? Wouldn't it be at home? How much more so, then, in an institution where wrong heads might be moved to imitate him!

A Canadian convict, when assigned to a shop, said: "I've never worked a day in my life, and I'm damned if I'll do it here." He was tried up and flogged, and from that day he worked.

One does not feel very amiably toward a person who has inflicted physical pain or injury on him, but if the purpose of the pain was correctional the victim may come

pranos was a boy with curly hair and the face of an angel. A woman visitor was smitten to tears at the sight of him, and the pure, sweet quality of his voice. "Oh, what could have brought him here?" she asked. "It isn't possible that he ever did anything wrong. Oh, Mister Blank, won't you please ask that keeper what that boy ever did to bring him here." And Mister Blank did it. And the keeper answered: "Little dam cuss, he's the worst case we've got here. I wish he'd die." So the tears for the angel child were more or less wasted.

There is a fair average of health, consider-



in the later years to look upon the matter in a forgiving or even a grateful spirit. One of the fellows who had been paddled at Elmira extended his hand to the superintendent, as he was about to leave, and said: "I thank you, Mr. Brockway, for what you have done for me—at both ends."

Another instance comes from another institution. The superintendent was one day passing through the shoe shop attached to the prison, when a young Cuban, smarting under some vague sense of wrong, caught up a shoe knife and made a stab at him. The outcry of another convict caused the man to turn in time to avoid the blow. He said never a word. He wrested the weapon from the young fellow's hand, led him by the arm to a corner, threw him across his knee, took a shoe sole from a table, and gave him a good, old fashioned, paternal dressing down. It was the first time in his life that the Cuban had ever had this experience and the last time it was needed. Years after the superintendent met this graduate, who shook him warmly by the hand and thanked him for the spanking. It had been a turning point in his career. He was now prosperous and respectable and the head of a big factory. Moral: Be spanked and own factories. Appearances do, not always tell the truth in reformatories. If they did one would say that the reformatory contained a large proportion of bad citizens; whereas it is known that most of them are first offenders, parented by the wrong people, more sinned against than sinning. Hard faces there are, but good ones, too, although experience alone will disclose the inmate's character. At one of the public functions in a correctional institution there was music by a quartet of inmates. One of the so-

ing, at Elmira. Cell room is more adequate than in some of the prisons, each apartment measuring 12 by 10 feet, and there are two ventilators in each. A slip of carpet is allowed to an occupant, but no rug, lest there should be splendors and jealousies. By the same token, the only ornaments permitted are family photographs. Precautions are taken to prevent the drinking of unboiled water, and the sign, "Danger!" is hung over the faucets in the shops. Doubling up is condemned but practiced, for there are 1,360 men to put into 1,264 cells. The moral effect of the crowding is probably worse than the physical, but until the rich and progressive state of New York creates a modern, graded, yet unified system of prisons, with more elasticity both of court practice and prison methods, there will be ground for complaint.

Yet, there are not many hospital cases, thanks to ample feeding and wholesome exercise and employments. Consumption is most dreaded of all visitations. The criminal is a defective, he is physically handicapped, and he is three times as liable to consumption as are others. As a rule, he dies early, not merely because he has been dissipated and diseased and ill-nourished, but because he began life with so small a capital of vitality, his parents having little to give to him. The consumptives endanger the health of others in the institution, and are sometimes sent back to their families before it is time to parole them. All nationalities are represented, and I asked one of the keepers which one predominated. He looked at me thoughtfully, as if wondering whether it were safe to impart a secret, and he said: "About 48 per cent. of them are that kind." Now, what did he mean by that?

Considering that 27 per cent. of all the youth who have been sent to Elmira are said to have been absolutely without moral sense—moral idiots, in fact—the magnitude of the task which has been undertaken may be imagined. But in the excellence of the results, Elmira has more than justified itself. It has set an example that the world is preparing to follow.

The Open System.



PRISON, without bolts or bars. This is the California reformatory. It is not called a prison, nor does it look like one, nor are the inmates ever referred to as prisoners. They are simply students in the state school. This reformatory is at Whittier, a pleasant village founded

by Quakers, about fifteen miles from Los Angeles. It is beautifully surrounded by gardens and orchards, and the magnificent coast range, its peaks whitened with snow in

there is a spark of the divine in every man, if only it can be reached. His idea was to inculcate a sense of responsibility and a proper ambition among those boys and girls who, in lack of proper home training, are a constant menace against the order and security of society. There are no models for the Whittier school. The only institution that might suggest it is the prison in Lepoglava, Hungary. Here the prisoners are graded in three classes. The first of their term they serve in cells, like those in Sing Sing. In the next class they work together in shops. On attaining the third grade they leave the prison and live in their own cottages, outside the walls, where they have no guards other than the superintendents of the farms. There was no reformatory in California before the establish-

ment of Whittier, but another on the same order has since been built at Ione. individually; to free him as much as possible from vicious surroundings and criminal suggestions. Students of prisons declare that this is the closest approach to the ideal that has so far been reached. It is certainly better than anything of the kind which has been elsewhere attempted in the world. In the older states the directors and keepers of prisons are an ineffective, ill paid, political lot. The Whittier establishment is on another basis. It was believed that to make first class citizens out of warped material one must have first class directors and teachers. Colleges pay large salaries to teachers of boys who are nominally bright and good, yet there is a more urgent need of skilled direction for the mentally stunted and morally unfortunate.

The key note of success is occupation, constant occupation, mental and physical. Every lad acquires a common school education, has a military training and learns a trade. There is no question that thousands of these boys return to the world as well qualified to earn an honest livelihood as are the children of the well to do. There were over 100 graduates from this school in the army and navy in the Philippines alone at the time of the American occupation. There are no more walls or other protections than in any other school or college, no guard is seen with a gun, there are no chains or gratings or any suggestions of a prison. The inmates are sent to Whittier until of age, but they may be paroled or discharged at any time, even in three weeks. There is an average of 300 boys and 50 girls here at a time and the attempts at escape are but four or five a year. An exception to this record must be noted during a political regime which followed Dr. Lindley's retirement, for that season saw a lapse into general lawlessness and rebellion. Political control endured for only two months but the evil effects of it lasted for six months afterward. Intelligent men were then restored to their places and the barbarians went out. Last year only five attempts at escape were made and all were unsuccessful. Two cadets who were working for the superintendent, drawing thereby a little salary, and who by good conduct had earned the right to go at any time, ran away one midnight while on guard, but they wrote a letter of apology shortly after, expressing their regret that they had not made a formal retirement. Smart boys they were, too, but, then, smart boys sometimes run away from the best of homes.



ADMINISTRATION
BUILDING
BOY'S DEPARTMENT.

winter, walls the eastern horizon. The Whittier school dates from 1891. Dr. Walter Lindley, a physician from Brooklyn, N. Y., who had given up a good practice to take its charge, was its first superintendent. He had made a study of Eastern prisons and reformatories, but to him they were partial failures. Dr. Lindley has a heart as big as his adopted state. He believes with Victor Hugo that

ment of Whittier, but another on the same order has since been built at Ione.

ALMOST AN IDEAL PRISON.

Children are taken at the Whittier school from the ages of 8 to 18, and may be held until they are 21. There are no rules of the usual sort common in penal institutions and the methods are elastic. The plan is to treat the child

DOESN'T BELIEVE IN "INCORRIGIBLES."

On arrival a boy is washed, dressed and put into the company of trustees, who, it is believed, will have a good influence on him. According to his moral and mental condition, he is assigned to one of seven companies. If he amounts to anything he will quickly show an ambition to move forward into a better one. A boy is not to be associated with those worse than himself, and at the same time, it is necessary to protect the well disposed boys, so far as possible. Says Dr. Lindley: "I don't believe any of the boys is incorrigible. We get an idiot, now and then, but we send him elsewhere."

Some of the most unpromising prisoners become the best, and the reverse may also be said. The worst come from San Francisco. The worst always come from cities. Only 25 per cent. of these boys are from the country. Many of the hardest looking pupils develop the greatest kindness and gentleness of manner, and theories of descent are sometimes put to a severe test. One veritable cherub, a boy of striking beauty and excellent disposition, is the son of a convict and an opium eating street drab. When Mrs. Lindley died, one boy wrote to the doctor: "She taught me about flowers. I know what ones she loved. Please let me care for her grave while I am here."

Physical restraints are seldom necessary. There are watchmen in the dormitories, but they guard against fire and misconduct, rather than against escape. When a boy runs away and is caught his credits are taken away and he starts all over again. Boys who are rebellious or who endanger the discipline of the school may be locked up on bread and water for two or three days, but this is rarely done. The commoner punishment is to deprive him of certain privileges, or to make him walk a beat without speaking to any one. During the entire year it may be necessary to whip about twenty-five of the boys. For months at a time, however, no such punishment is administered. The whipping must be done in presence of the superintendent, and eight or ten blows are enough. The girls are never whipped. They are locked up, or put on the guard line, when refractory.

CARE TO AVOID CONTAMINATION.

Everything possible is done to keep the inmates from contamination. Tramps are never allowed to come near Whittier. These men are perverts of the worst type, and not a few of the boys reach Whittier because at some time they have fallen under their influence. It is an offense punishable by imprisonment for any one to attempt to get an inmate away or to smuggle liquor or tobacco into the institution. Many of the boys and a few of the girls are cigarette fiends. The officers are generally able to tell when the boys have succeeded in obtaining tobacco, for, as a result of smoking, they will show listlessness and carelessness in their work. These children are not absolute illiterates; only 6 per cent. have never attended school; but the greatest number of them have attended school for only five years.

Evil homes and surroundings are the commonest causes of the conduct and conditions which send the children to this place. Of pupils whose parents are separated, there are over 20 per cent.; of those whose parents are dead, 8 per cent.; of those who have lost one parent, 20 per cent.; of those who never

knew that they had any parents, 8 per cent. These latter come chiefly from the orphan asylums. One of the boys has had five parents. Divorces and remarriages, often without forms of law, are common in the society which they represent. Occasionally a good boy will be sent to this school by a step father or step mother, who wants to be rid of him. The parent or guardian can go before a judge and swear that a child is incorrigible, and he or she is then committed to this institution. About 40 per cent. of

of their term on parole. A bond for \$200 must be given by the person who takes the child on parole, and he must agree to feed, clothe and pay him properly and report monthly. If through any change of fortune he becomes unable to support the child, the child may be returned to the institution, and if the boy is mistreated by any such guardian the officers of the school can go to his rescue. Boys and girls are committed only by judges of the Superior Court.

As to the youth who leave the institutions



the inmates are Irish, or what is called Irish-American; 25 per cent., Mexicans; and of Americans there are 20 per cent. The others are Italians, Indians, negroes and an occasional Swede. One is a Japanese. There are no Chinese.

MOST BOYS ARE REFORMED.

The treatment of boys and girls is dissimilar, for the boys show criminal tendencies and the girls do not. At the same time these girls are disposed toward a loose life. One woman trustee says that 95 per cent. of them are reformed, but the officers of the institution say otherwise. It is the old story: when a woman falls she does not often rise again. Ninety per cent. of the boys are paroled and 75 per cent. of them do well afterward. Of the girls, however, it is said by those in a position to know, that fully half of them return to evil ways. Occasionally the girls marry and live correct and happy lives, and one of them lately married a cadet from the same institution. About 15 per cent. of the boys become professional criminals and bring up in state prison.

This is an institution for suspended sentences, and a bad boy who proves to be unmanageable may be sent back to the judge for sentence. If, however, there is no definite charge against him he cannot be sent, because in such an instance there is no offense for which to try him. The good boys are looked after and provided with work and homes. Though they can be held there until the age of 21, they may spend the larger part

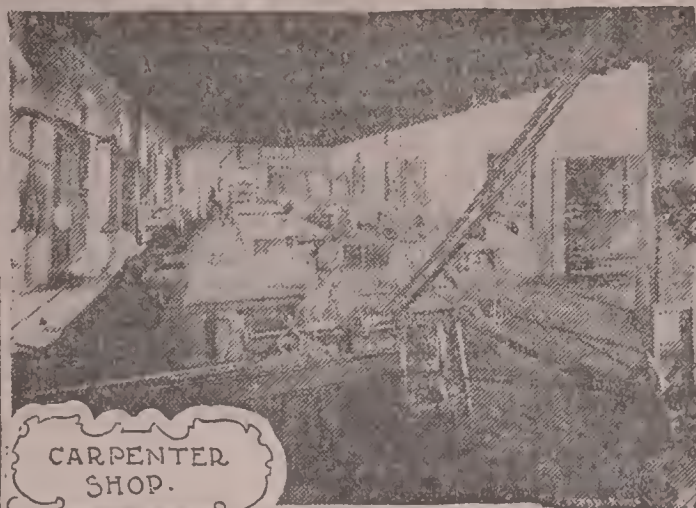
for places in families or factories there are various reports, and the conditions vary in various states. One man, not a Californian, who is in charge of a large shop, declares that he has no faith in boys who have at any time engaged in a criminal career.

"I have had them working for me at one time and another," he said, "and they were all failures and frauds. I tried eight graduates from a penitentiary in my place, and they were all unsatisfactory. They loafed, and they lied, and they forged checks, and they had to be bounced. I'm a believer now in total depravity."

This, however, chances to be an exceptional experience. There are hundreds of ex-students of these institutions who have abandoned devious ways and taken to straight ones, and have left a record of exemplary conduct. Every one desires in his heart to believe at least in the possibility of such a thing. The success of "Les Misérables" and "The Ticket of Leave Man" proves it.

BUILDINGS ARE NEEDLESSLY HIGH.

In its situation the Whittier school could hardly be improved upon. The building itself, however, is old fashioned. It was constructed by a man who believed that a certain amount of architectural display was necessary in any public building. With all outdoors to spread in, he piled up his walls to a height of four stories, thereby imposing on the little fellows the necessity of climbing a lot of needless stairs. There are no cells, except two or three that are used only for refractory



pupils, all the youngsters being gathered into dormitories at night, where they are watched by a man who sits in a corner under a light and has the room under his eye, but who seldom has occasion to address the boys or to separate any one of them from his fellows for misdoing.

These dormitories are large and airy and the halls are wide, but the height of the building needlessly adds to the peril from fire. One of the separate houses, in which were the dining rooms and certain other apartments, was burned a while ago, and the occupants of the place are put to some present inconvenience as a result of the lack of room. The engine rooms and shops are admirably neat and well kept, and the fireman has a relatively easy task because the fuel is oil, which has been "struck" in and about Los Angeles. It needs but the turn of a screw to release a flow of oil under the boiler and there is a hot fire in an instant.

The industries are such as a fairly bright boy should be able to prosecute with a little direction from the shop superintendent, and the boy goes into the world with a trade which, if he chooses to follow it, will leave no excuse for mischievous living afterward. Sloyd, which was afterward introduced into the manual training schools of the state, was first adopted here, although it is not continued at present, the lack of proper appropriations having hampered progress at Whittier. Good work is done in the tailor shop, the carpenter shop, the printery, the shoemaking department, laundry, blacksmith's shop, bakery, kitchen and on the farm of 160 acres, with its stables, its cows, horses and hens, and in the girls' department sewing and housework are taught.

The boys and girls are talked to—reasoned with—when they enter the school, and they quickly come to an understanding that the place is the best for them, and acquiesce in the rules that may be framed for their conduct. The appreciation of what is being done for them is more instant than in other reformatories, it is said, and the behavior is better. The punishment cells are rarely used and, indeed, there are no fixed punishments, because it is realized that there are differences in the degree of responsibility. A boy who has slept in his clothes and has been accustomed to imitate the example of his parents in spitting on the floor will not be so severely rebuked for dirty and disorderly habits as will the one who has been well trained at home and who knows better than to disregard the customs of civilized people, but who wants to make his new associates believe that he is "tough."



CONDUCT IMPROVES WONDROUSLY QUICK.

The Improving tendencies that inhere in such surroundings as we find in Whittier are often of wonderful promptness in their action. One day a sheriff from one of the middle counties arrived at the school with a brawny young offender, whom he had put in irons for safety's sake, for the boy weighed 200 pounds and was capable of mischief. The sheriff kept a shotgun ready to hand during the trip and he was amazed, on arriving at the school, to discover none of the usual measures for the prevention of escapes. He was in two minds whether he should leave his charge in an institution like that, and was in actual alarm for the safety of the school when the lad was freed from his irons and sent to bed in one of the dormitories. Two months later, being in that part of the state, the sheriff called at Whittier to learn whether his former prisoner had been committing any murders or burglaries in the neighborhood. Great was his astonishment when his villain opened the door for him. He had become one of the trusted inmates and was behaving quite as well as anybody.

At another time an attempt was made by a yellow paper to disquiet the public by reports of horrors enacted in the school. There has never been any secret in its conduct, and there was, therefore, a very slight basis for sensations; yet a woman was sent there with instructions to become hysterical and make disturbing copy. The first scholar that

she encountered was a fellow who had been consigned to Whittier because he had attempted murder. He was in an open field, without guard, without shackles or chains, and was trimming timber with a sharp adze. The article that she wrote was not sensational.

Whenever Frederick Warde plays in Los Angeles he gives a free performance for the pupils of the school at Whittier, the first being "Julius Caesar" in street dress. He was as heartily and wisely applauded as he would have been by any audience in California, and the pupils hold him in great liking. A while ago he was in a Texas town and received a call from a hearty looking young fellow who introduced himself by saying that he was in the "Julius Caesar" audience in 1893. He was now the superintendent of a big electric lighting plant, and he invited Mr. Warde to take dinner with him and meet his wife. Under the old system of harsh imprisonment he would probably have gone back into the world an outcast, with the doors to honest employment closed against him.

BOYS MAKE GOOD SOLDIERS.

As was said, the boys are organized into military companies and are required to drill every day, the smallest of the boys being excused from long marches. Formerly guns were supplied, but these are not in use at present, hence the drill consists almost wholly of evolutions. The drill commander is an Army man of majestic



BUILDING AND
GROUNDS OF
GIRLS' SCHOOL.



CHICKEN YARD
GIRLS'
DEPARTMENT.



SITTING ROOM IN
COMPANY B'S COTTAGE
GIRLS' DEPARTMENT.

bill of fare for each day and the dietary includes bread, eggs, sausage, steak, stews, potatoes, sweet potatoes, mush, turnips, onions and other garden stuff, pie, cake, pudding, butter, oranges, lemons, milk and coffee, while on holidays there are turkey and roast pig. Despite the ravages of several hundred active appetites there is a surplus of fruit and garden sauce which is sold to the grocers.

It is possible for an inmate to earn a little money—more than he or she would be apt to earn outside, in addition to board and lodging. The surplus is perhaps not more than 75 cents a week, but even this is an incentive to industry and the money can be put into a bank, either to gain interest or to withdraw for approved expenditures, as occasion may demand. One boy when paroled had over \$30 to spend and several have had \$10 and thereabout. There is an excellent library, and the pupils are encouraged in a wise use of books. One of the cadets acts as assistant librarian and the doors of his department are open from 8 in the morning until 8 at night. The popular reading, however, is a monthly paper printed by the cadets themselves, and they are also contributors of some of its best contents. It is called "The Whittier," and is a successful and esteemed publication. The compositions are at least as original as those submitted to the ordinary school paper. Here are a couple of notes from a late issue:

"The Jellyfish has no teeth, but uses himself as if he were a piece of paper when he is very hungry, getting his food and then wrapping his body close about it."

"One of our cadet officers recently made an involuntary trip downstairs, on his head. He made what might be called a howling success of it."

And a threatened device is described in this fashion: "And now they have invented a wireless telephone by which a message can be talked across the ocean. You just stick your transmitter into the water on this side and say your little piece, while the fellow—in China for instance—with phone to his ear, one end of which is in the briny deep, listens to your gentle racket, and talks back. If any man had told me a hundred years ago that they would do such things, and say such things at this day and date, he'd had provocation to have hit me about seventy pounds right between the eyes, for I should have called him 'another,' sure. This last invention beats the legendary 'phillioo bird' all hollow."

Of course there is dullness among the pu-

pearance, and he as well as his lieutenants are arrayed like Army officers. The performance of the boys at review and dress parade in the evening is highly commendable, and their band inflates itself with martial pride as it goes crashing and roaring down the line, past the Stars and Stripes that are fluttering in the breeze. All minor officers of the companies are cadets, as they are called, and eligibility to these offices, as well as the trust and responsibility imposed on those who are promoted to them, are stimulants to good conduct and diligence. Every summer the whole command goes into camp at Santa Catalina Island, a beautiful resort, which is reached by steamer from San Pedro, the port of Los Angeles. There they spend three weeks in drill, but with plenty of time for bathing, boating, games, athletics, foot ball and music. And the youngsters, far from being restrained, are encouraged in their sports, because it is found that when their vitality has due outlet they are in better health and spirits, more tractable and make better progress in their studies. It is especially desired that they shall play at the end of their day's work, because they sleep better afterward.

At the school itself provision is made for the frequent entertainment of the youngsters. They have a large and handsome theater, where dramatic and variety performances are given and they contribute to the programme themselves. An orchestra chosen from among the members of the band supplies music

whenever these entertainments are given. Visitors who can or will address the understandings of the cadets are usually asked to speak to them, but the officers hold in dread the very good people who seize the opportunity to tell the boys how bad they are and how much better they ought to be. One reformer began his talk with a winning smile and this introduction:

"I will not say, as the speaker did who addressed the convicts in a Southern penitentiary, that I am glad to see so many of you here." This sent the spirits of the whole company into its various boots. It was a suggestion that the cadets were not scholars as their teachers had tried to make them believe, but offenders serving a sentence. It was a shock to the self respect which it is desired to inculcate.

The usual holidays are observed at Whittier, and the birthday of the poet, for whom the Quaker founders named the town, is always fitly celebrated.

INMATES ARE VERY WELL FED.

Talking is forbidden during study and work hours, as it is in schools that are not reformatory in character, but it is permitted in the playgrounds—imagine tag or base ball without talk—at meal times and in the evening. The well being of the inmates is likewise advanced by a liberal and varied diet, and the large orchards that surround the school provide a plenty of fruit for the tables without cost. There is a special

pils, most of whom have had but little schooling and almost no home training of the kind that is valuable in forming character; 75 per cent of them come from the city tenements, where there is a prevalence of wrong practices and wrong ideals; yet there is often a surprising change when the minds begin to awaken under new stimuli and when undreamed horizons begin to open. Says Dr. Lindley: "Some of the boys were repellent when they came here. They were seemingly of a low type; they were dirty and neglected. It was astonishing to see the change in them after a few weeks of proper feeding and after their minds had been awakened. I grew to love the little fellows."

EXAMPLE OF QUIET HEROISM.

A while ago one of the boys went back into the world and was confronted by home conditions that would have discouraged even those who might be supposed to have a stronger resisting power than the graduate of a public institution. His mother was

a confirmed drunkard and there were two or three small sisters to care for. Unpracticed as he was in the ways of the world, he at once began the pursuit of the trade he had learned in Whittier, and was presently in a position to offer a home to his relatives. His mother promised to reform, but only two or three nights elapsed before he found her as usual, dead drunk in the hall. When last heard from he was still stoutly and cheerfully holding his own against discouragement and adversity, and with the help of his brothers had placed his sisters in a convent school where they would be free from the mother's influence. Examples of quiet heroism like this are commoner in humble life than we know. Probably they are proportionally commoner than in finer society, for there is a lack of the sensitiveness that makes vice and wretchedness intolerable for other than ethical reasons.

The Whittier school has, without question, begun a great reform. The day of punitive

treatment is passing. The dawn of a day of justice has appeared. Not punishment, especially for one who sins in ignorance, but reform, is the duty of the state to itself and to the offender. Sharp measures will still be needful against those who waver between right and wrong, and those who have never felt the stir of a moral sense. The hoodlums, for instance, who vex the American cities, the Hooligans of London, the Larrikins of Australia, need prompt discouragement, even if that discouragement takes the form of whipping; but prevention will save society from the passions and devices of those who seek to do evil against it, and more and better schools, a completer watch on the potentially vicious, and wiser labor laws will do much to abridge the improper liberties and tendencies of the criminal, while for such as are not yet criminal, but lack guidance and are weak or undeveloped there must be an establishment, the world over, of such institutions as the Whittier school.

The County Jail.



MOST various of penal institutions is the county jail, and it is, with possibly no exception, the worst. As it is occupied by short term prisoners and by people awaiting trial, the rules regarding cleanliness and employment are seldom enforced, and the place is dirty, ill

smelling, unhealthy and repugnant. In some of the states wise legislation has taken the prisons out of the hands of politicians and has appointed as wardens men of understanding, sympathy, honesty, sobriety and steady temper, but the jails are mostly held by sheriffs as places of emolument, by means of which they are enabled to repay themselves for the services rendered to their party in the past.

In the prison and penitentiary the cells are kept clean, the prisoners are compelled to bathe before they occupy them, certain rations are assured to them, and these rations while coarse are nutritive and sufficient. In a jail, on the contrary, there are generally no arrangements for bathing; the cells and corridors are not kept clean, unless an occasional whitewashing is amends for the use of soap and mops and brooms and disinfectants; vermin lodge in the stone work and the wood; there is little or no discipline; and there is complaint of ill feeding. A sheriff usually receives a certain sum for the board of each prisoner. If he is an honest man or a man of heart, he expends the whole of this sum in the way intended. If he is the usual politician he saves money at the expense of the stomachs of his prisoners.

Now, even allowing that the criminal is not to be treated with consideration, and that the place of his confinement is not to be made pleasant for him, the injustice of running a jail for personal profit is obvious when it is remembered that the institution is not merely for punishment of minor offenses, but as a place of detention for untried prisoners, many of whom prove to be innocent, and for other people who are wanted as witnesses. Law is responsible for some injustices and oppressions, but for none worse than the picking up of men neither charged, convicted nor suspected of offense, but unfortunate enough to have seen the commission of a

crime. In a noted murder case in New York the unhappy witnesses were kept behind the bars for years, while the assassin walked the streets, on bail.

WITNESSES FARE THE WORST.

Untried prisoners and witnesses deserve the best, but they have the worst. That is, they usually do, for there are degrees of badness in jails, as in everything else. In the rural districts the jail is often no more than a caboose of logs with a single window and no furniture, and the person arrested is locked in while the sheriff or constable goes home and leaves him there for the night, exposed to danger of fire or freezing, without bed or bedding, without lamp or food. In the cities we have seen the beginning of a change. Humanity requires it. The day of the Old Bailey and Newgate is behind us. For there was a time, and it is not far gone, when law was slower than it is to-day, preposterous as the assertion seems, and when a debtor was thrown into company of the vilest creatures of the town, to wait till he paid his indebtedness, which, as he could earn nothing, was for life. As a partial solace his family was permitted to occupy quarters with him, and he saw his children grow to manhood and womanhood among thieves and hawks, bearing daily talk that would shock even a man, accustomed to exhibitions of lewdness, cruelty and vulgarity, and surrounded by all the conditions that make for unrighteousness.

While we pretend to civilization, that time will never come again, but ideal conditions have not yet been reached. The poor man fares hard, and the rich man less so, where in the eye of the law, all men should be alike. It is remembered that Boss Tweed, the most audacious thief known in the new world till his successor came into power, was permitted to enjoy many of the solaces that stolen money had given to him before his arrest, and other big rascals have been permitted to have as much liberty, and even more. It is said, on good authority, that in the case of certain well-to-do offenders, they have been seen driving in the parks with jail wardens attired as footmen, when they were supposed to be expiating in tears their recent misdeeds, and it is certain that they can live well in jail so long as their friends can trust them to repay what they will advance for that benevolent object.

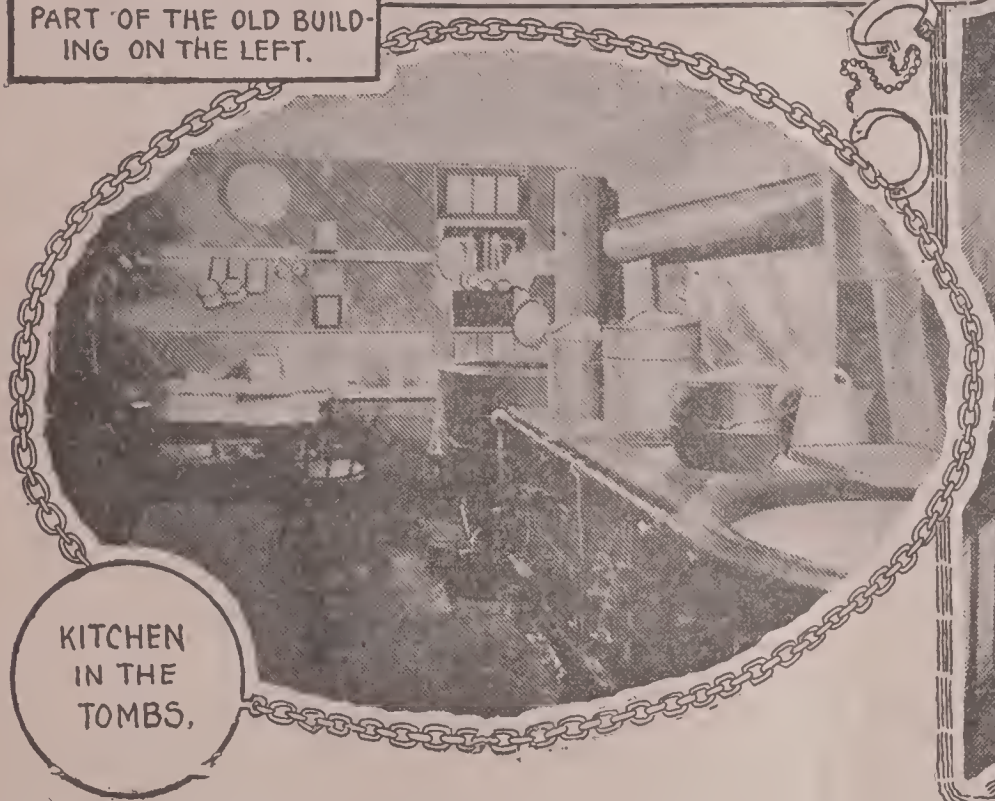
WHAT'S THE REASON FOR THIS MYSTERY?

Most mysterious of public institutions is the jail for witnesses, or, as it is called in New York, the House of Detention. Wherever secrecy is used, especially under a Tammany administration, one suspects occasion for it, and in New York the secrecy is of the deepest. There is, consequently, something wrong in this prison. Sergeant Douvau, the warden, will give not a word of information; will not say how many prisoners are in his charge, how many cells there are, what the dietary is, how long the men remain there on an average, nor will he permit one to set foot beyond the office door. At police headquarters it was Mr. Murphy only who could grant a pass, but Mr. Murphy's business hours require one to lose a day to see Mr. Murphy. At the District Attorney's office Mr. McKenna said that no pass could be given unless I had a father or son in the place and wanted to carry some clean shirts to him. He said he knew nothing of the place and did not know any one who did. It was a prison for poor people who could not furnish bail. Another official explained that I could not enter the prison because I might bribe the people there to give false witness. It is expressly to keep lawyers away from them that they were shut up in this medieval gloom and mystery. The place is not like the usual prison, in that it occupies an old dwelling house on Mulberry street, not far from police headquarters. It is a tall, narrow, old-fashioned house, with winding stairs and a look of faded gentility, and the cell block is in the rear. Innocent men are kept here at the whim of the authorities, deprived of liberty and association with their kind, and at the end of months of this injustice, if the judge who has heard their testimony believes that they deserve compensation, he can order the payment of some small matter, possibly \$25 or \$30.

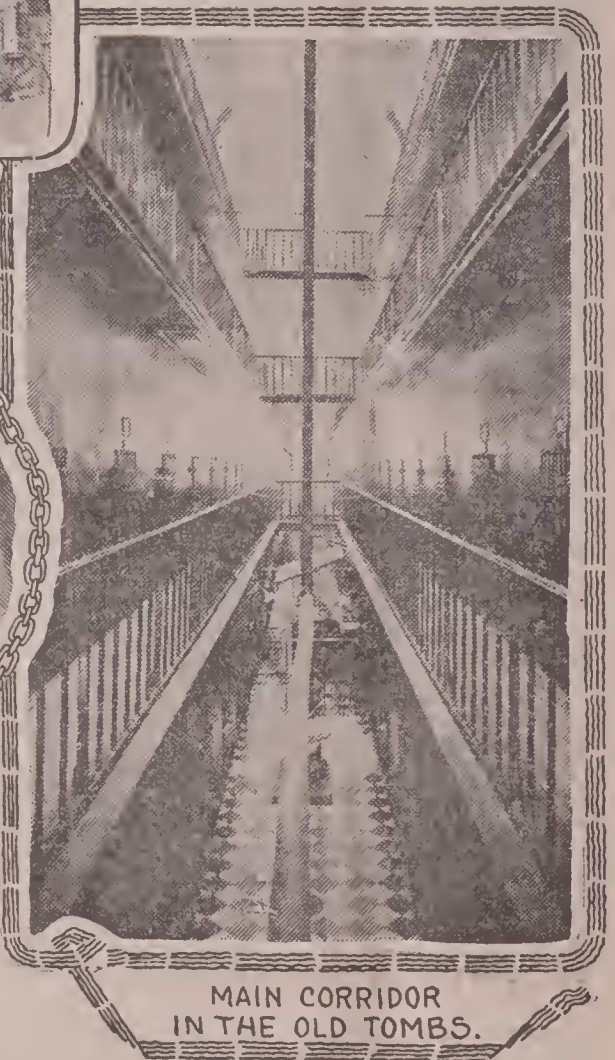
In most of our towns the witnesses who are held pending trial are committed to the common jails and herded in with thieves and drunkards and street walkers unless they have friends who will go bail for their appearance when it is demanded. Possibly the jail is worse than the detention house, albeit access to it is generally easy, and there are more privileges. One of the legal functionaries of New York said that witnesses were deprived of their freedom "in order



THE NEW TOMBS.
PART OF THE OLD BUILD-
ING ON THE LEFT.



KITCHEN
IN THE
TOMBS.



MAIN CORRIDOR
IN THE OLD TOMBS.

most unhealthful and unpleasant in New York. "Little Italy" begins almost at its doors, the "New Jerusalem," with its horde of unwashed Poles and Russians is around the corner, and Chinatown with its gaming joints and opium, is within five minutes' walk. Five Points, near by, was at one time the wickedest place in America, but is now clean and dull and sober. Reforms outside of the Tombs have been more aggressive than those inside.

The old wing of this house—city prison, is its official name—contains double ranks of cells, each four tiers high. The lower ones are as dark, at noon, as cellars, those above are a little better, and on the top tier one has light enough to read easily. Exactly the purpose of the narrow chinks of windows is not clear. Probably the architect imagined that if they were six inches wide instead of three somebody might evaporate through one of them. But nobody ever did. There have been escapes, yet not through the windows. Of these the most talked about at the time was that of the murderer, Sharkey, in the dress of his mistress, Maggie Jordan. She was allowed to enter his cell, a quick exchange of clothing was effected, and Sharkey, veiled and weeping, descended to the office, gave up the woman's pass and was permitted to go free. This was an old

that there might be no miscarriage of justice." As if the imprisonment of an innocent man were not the grossest of all injustices!

TOMBS BEST KNOWN OF ALL.

Best known of the jails of this country is the Tombs of New York. The structure that so long bore that name was fashioned like an Egyptian temple, with sloping outer walls and had a dark entrance between imposing columns. One of the lower courts held here was nearly as well known as the building, for the judge was one of the shows of the town, being oftener drunk than sober.

He was a political judge. The original Tombs is in process of reformation. Half of the building has been torn away, and a larger, lighter, airier, more modern structure is to replace it, some time. The sooner the better, for the ancient structure is gloomy and crowded and ill arranged, albeit the majority of people who go there are not of a critical turn, for the neighborhood supplies most of the candidates, and the surroundings of the Tombs are among the

dodge; at least, as old as the French revolution. Now it is customary to keep sorrowing relatives on the outside of the cell doors, and they are far from a sorrowing lot, as a rule. And the prisoners are better minded to see cheerful faces at the grating than faces long drawn and dewed with tears. Every applicant for admission, who wishes to see a certain prisoner, must submit to an examination, the men by a warden in the corridor, and the women by

a matron in a room set apart for the purpose. Lawyers who consult their clients have special rooms for their meetings.

CELLS NOT SO BAD.

The cells, apart from the darkness, are not bad. They are about 12 feet by 6 on the ground floor and 12 feet high, but each tier recedes from the one beneath it, so that the top cells are smallest of all. Each has a double bunk with a cast iron frame and a canvas in place of a mattress. A sheet, a blanket and a tiny pillow are allowed to each prisoner. As if the lack of a window were not enough, the doors are 5 feet high and almost impervious by reason of the heavy iron grill. Modern prisons are strong enough when they have doors of upright bars 4 inches apart. Nobody can walk between those bars and the spaces between them admit air and light.

RAYMOND STREET
JAIL,
BROOKLYN.



COURT, RAYMOND STREET JAIL.
OLD JAIL NOW USED AS A BARN.



CELL IN
RAYMOND STREET JAIL.

It is evident that the attempt is made to keep the place clean, and, considering the class that occupies it, the success is remarkable. Some men are so obviously dangerous to the well being of the college that they are led into it with tongs and made to bathe at once, but a keeper naively observed of the others that they did not need to wash. As the friends and relatives of the inmates

are quite as innocent of soap and the proprieties as the people behind the bars, the Tombs is not an ideal summer resort. Tobacco is permitted in all the cells and the odor of very bad pipes is one of the appurtenances. Considering that of the 400 men who make the daily average of prisoners 300 are awaiting trial, the solace of a bad pipe can hardly be refused to them. They have food enough, and, though not of a sort to please the fastidious, yet to most of them it is satisfactory, because it is as good as they get in the tenements. Meal hours occur at 7, at 12 and 4, and the menu comprises bread and coffee in the morning, bread and tea for supper, and soup, stew and potatoes for dinner. Friends can and do send in other things to eat, and a peddler is allowed to go through the building at certain hours selling fruit.

The usual commitment to this prison is 60 days; the usual delay in trying men accused of crime is 30 days, for the administration of law in Manhattan is a scandal. It is no uncommon thing for a prisoner to be held for three months; waiting the pleasure of the District Attorney, and murder cases drag on for year after year. The solaces in a long imprisonment in the Tombs are not many.

There is little ornamentation of cells, and of the library of 2,000 volumes not many avail themselves, probably because they know nothing of it. The prisoner usually has company whether he wants it or not, for there are only 171 cells in use, and 400 men must be packed into them. About forty women are found in the contingent, but they have a wing of their own, and the "tea day men," so called, who are serving a definite sentence, are compelled to put on stripes and work about the yards and galleries. Men waiting trial have an hour of exercise in the morning and again an hour in the afternoon, under watch of their keepers, the exercise consisting in tramping to and fro along the galleries of their tier. Personal effects, except a knife, are allowed to the prisoners, and each is provided with a spoon, cup and pan.

NO VENTILATION IN BROOKLYN JAIL.

A contrast, in some ways, to the Tombs, is offered by the jail in Brooklyn. It is a castellated building of granite, lighted with ample windows and ventilated by swinging panes and skylights, yet containing no means for exhausting the foul air of the cells. Each cell is a mere niche into which air cannot be forced, hence there

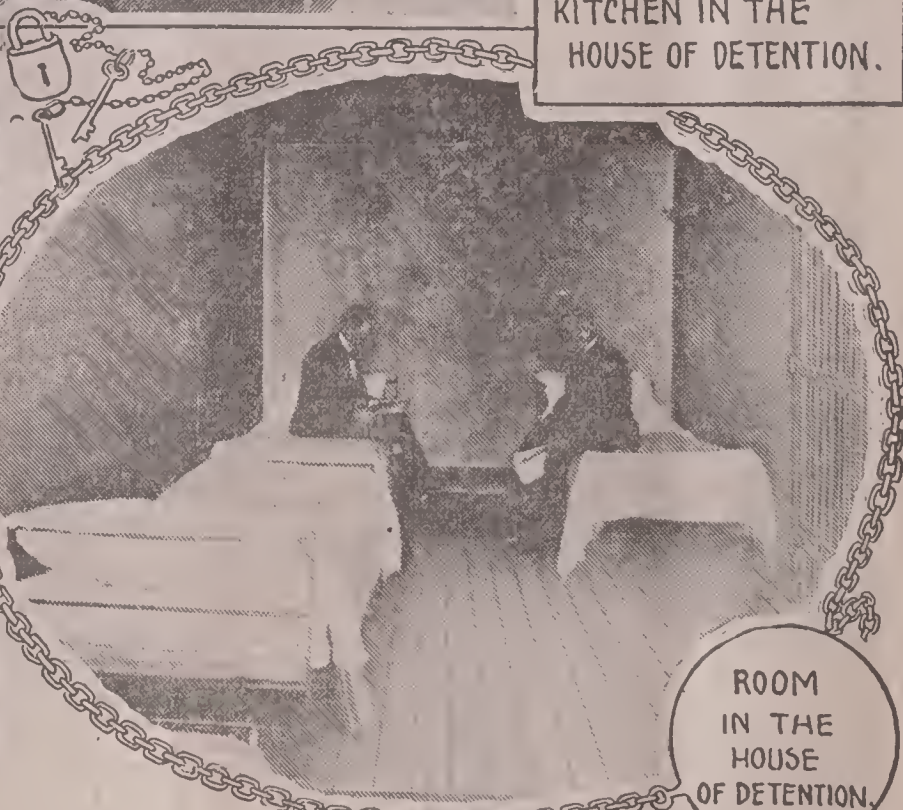
is in the place a faded odor of uncleanness, in spite of the busy work of a cleaning and painting squad. These workers are under no obligation to do anything, but they elect to scrub and paint because they are by this means enabled to stay outside of their cells all day, and time does not hang so heavy on their hands as it does on those of the idlers. Formerly the place was a wonder of villainy, and I have seen vermin crawling over the walls of a cell and over the body of a prisoner that lay on the floor. The body, by the way, was that of a Polish Jew who had committed a murder and had starved himself to death. He steadfastly refused to wash during his incarceration, swearing that it was against his religion. Which matters became unbearable he was stripped, taken into the yard and the hose turned on him. With creatures like that in the place cleanliness was out of the question. Filth is no longer tolerated. Even the smaller cattle that inhabit such places, cockroaches, for example, are fought down with such vigor that hardly anything is now seen of them, and this is the easier in buildings where steel and iron are



KITCHEN IN THE
HOUSE OF DETENTION.



HOUSE OF DETENTION,
MANHATTAN



ROOM
IN THE
HOUSE
OF DETENTION.

the structural materials, and there is no decaying wood for the insects to burrow into or hide behind.

The architectural system of the Brooklyn jail is that of a double block of cells, 408 in number, surrounded by the usual stone house. In addition to these cells are 24 more used as closets and storage places. "Doubling" is seldom necessary. With a population half as large as that of Manhattan and only half as wicked on ordinary occasions, Brooklyn provides more than twice as much cell room for its delinquents as are contained in the

Tombs. The average number of inmates of the jail is 380 men and 70 women. The women are kept apart in a separate building which was formerly an office and is in a sad state of ineffectiveness and disrepair. The cells, where they are used instead of dormitories, are so near the street that friends of the inmates could pass bottles of liquor through the windows from the sidewalk, and did it, too, until the windows were closed, to the shutting out of light and ventilation. A good deal more liberty is allowed to the women than to the men—that is, they have more

of the freedom of corridors and are kept under lock and key for fewer hours. Most of them are imprisoned for slight offenses, and no great injury would be done if they were to escape, but this they can be relied upon not to do.

SHERIFF HAS MANY FAT FEES.

The office of sheriff in Brooklyn, as in most other towns, is one of the political plums. The incumbent always retires from it with money, unless he has been flagrantly generous, and it is a

tradition that he shall hold office but once, for the powers need his place often as a reward for other henchmen who advance their interests. For every prisoner in his keeping the sheriff draws from the county 23 cents a day. He likewise has title to a turnkey's fee of 37½ cents every time a prisoner is delivered to him; and as the prisoner usually is delivered to him several times this fee alone amounts to a considerable figure. Thus, the prisoner is locked up directly after his arrest, to wait trial. There is one fee. He goes to court and the justice, looking him over, adjourns the case till next day. Another fee for the sheriff. A second time he goes to court, and on this occasion his lawyer is not ready. Another fee. A third time he is found guilty of stealing \$2 and is remanded for sentence. Another fee. Next day he is sentenced. Another fee. If the sum is more than \$25 he is sentenced to prison or the penitentiary, and he goes back to jail to await transportation. He may not stay there five minutes, but so long as he goes through the door the sheriff has another fee. Thus, it is easy to see, that by putting political judges on the bench, and forming a co-partnership with them, an expert sheriff can make an honest dollar or two out of every prisoner, even if he uses the whole 23 cents a day for turkey and pie, and stuffs the culprit to bursting. These observations are without prejudice to the present incumbent, who administers the office better than it is usually managed, and who shows a disposition to treat his charges as creatures with minds and rights and stomachs.

When a United States prisoner is sent to this jail for any reason government pays 35 cents a day for his board. The national prisoner is, therefore, an aristocrat in crime and looks down "with spurn" upon the commonalty of tramps and sneaks who have to live on 7 cents less. But even the federal prisoner is not in the vortex of the social swim. That place is reserved for the civil prisoner, for that pampered Sybarite gets 75 cents a day, and can have pate de foie gras and terrapin. The civil prisoner is the man who has a contempt of court, or has disobeyed an order thereof. For example, a man is sued by his wife for support. He replies that he is out of a job and cannot support anybody. The court orders him to pay \$25 a week for her living expenses. The man protests that he cannot find 25 cents in his clothes. He goes to jail, there to remain indefinitely. This is an extreme case, yet an occasional one. Wives with revenges to gratify, or with love affairs in which a husband is de trop, have resorted to the court to have that person rusticated, and he has emerged from his isolation to find madame gone with a gentleman friend, his house stripped of every bit of furniture and a number of bills to pay about the neighborhood.

HOME OF THE ALIMONY CLUB.

Commonly the civil prisoner is a man who is accused or suspected of fraud or undue reticence in his payments, yet he is not shut up in a cell. He has a room at the top with a regular bed and chairs and can cook up there, and raise flowers on the window sill and keep a bird. In one of the suite of rooms occupied by civil prisoners in the Brooklyn jail hangs the sign of the Alimony Club. Its sessions are not reported to be particularly jocund. Things of interest do happen in quality flats, however. One man who would not produce a lot of papers that the court wanted to see and who was consequently put away in the loft, cut his way

out and taking advantage of a temporary and curious blindness of everybody about the place lowered himself from the walls and went home.

It is in the jail that one sees the saddest sights that are associated with penal life. Here are dread, remorse, shame and despair. After the prisoner is sent to the Penitentiary he knows what is before him and he settles down to make the best of it. He is in a building that is better cared for than the jail and he has the securities of cleanliness

and ignominy added to what he is to endure after he reaches prison. As men and women are coming and going every day, and as they are allowed to receive their friends more often than in prison, it is hardly possible to bring about the same cleanliness as in a state institution, and filth in a dark, confined place breeds illness sooner than elsewhere. The little knick-knacks that are allowed to burden and brighten their surroundings have no place in the jail. The walls are as bare and bleak as stone and whitewash can be.



CELL IN THE WOMEN'S PRISON.

and of frequent inspection and medical service. He has employments that are good for him, no matter how willing he is to believe otherwise, and he knows that by industry and obedience he can shorten his stay materially. In jail, unless he is serving a short term for a slight offense, he suffers from uncertainty and anxiety. If he has committed a serious offense he fears the heaviest punishment. He realizes, too, that all his imprisonment in the jail, which often extends for months, counts for nothing, but is so much suffering

Often the whitewash is an inch thick and the warden does not dare remove the old incrustations, lest disease germs be set free.

PRIVILEGES OF NO AVAIL.

Such privileges as pertain to the inmates of the jail may be unknown to them. They have the daily papers, but as they almost invariably read the yellow kid they long term prisoners and that lighten their were better off without any for the papers of



WOMEN'S PRISON
RAYMOND STREET JAIL.

this sort the weak and criminal class finds constant incitements to misdoing. The libraries of such jails as have been modernized are small, and there is little encouragement to use the books. In the Brooklyn jail, for example, the books number but a hundred and are kept in the women's prison. It is doubtful if one man in twenty who is consigned to the place knows of their existence. And the library is not the work of the authorities, but of a little, quiet voiced woman, who, seeing the lack in reading matter, has made it her business to provide books. The few shelves have been filled at her own expense, book by book, and she reads them first to make sure that they will "do."

Here is a matter in which it would be easy to interest others if they could be interested at all; but the reformation of prisons and prison methods is slow—so slow that it is heart breaking—because the mass of people cannot be brought to take any part in it. It is not that they are indifferent to suffering and wrong, but the suffering is hidden from them; they do not read or speak of its existence; they do not appreciate the wrongs that are done to those who do wrong, and they prefer the sunlight to the miasm and the darkness.

Yet, there is a jail in every town, and it seems almost impossible that the mass of citizens should be ignorant of what it is, or indifferent to what it should be. It is more easily reformable, probably, than the state prison, and, more than all other institutions of its kind, it needs reform.

The House of Refuge.



IT APPEARS to be more easy to shirk work in town than in the country. No doubt that is why so many folks like town. Ease of escape into the streets is inviting to certain temperaments, also, and the young

fellow whose ideal, so far as he has one, is to be a tough, like his big brother, or the fellow who used to sit next to him in school, finds it not so hard to make himself objectionable in New York as it would be in Secaucus. There is this to be considered, however: that while Secaucus would placidly disapprove him, it would do little to make him better. It would regard him as one of the disagreeable fixtures, like the mosquitoes, and the malaria, and the odors from the fertilizer factory, but its constable would never receive or heed an appeal to arrest and lock him up, unless he had committed actual felony. Where men gather into congregations of millions this dull indifference to evil will not do. Offenders imperil property and public comfort. They are easily encouraged to assault personal safety.

The country hoodlum is usually a vulgar boor with a saving sense of humor, but the city hoodlum seems to take on all the attributes of evil that he sees and to practice his mischiefs unsparingly. He loafs on the corner and learns to smoke the fetid cigarette and spit through his teeth. He drops letters from words to indicate that he is too haughty to be precise in his speech. He interlards his conversation with the biggest swear words he can master, and his obscenity is more offensive still. One hears talk in the tenement districts of the metropolis that disheartens and disgusts, for it comes from the lips of babes. It is what they hear at home, and it is the language that they know.

After learning to smoke and swear, the candidate tipsples, usually on beer. Buying this fluid is called "rushin' de can," and "chasin' de duck," and the beer, after it is bought in the slum saloons, is wretched stuff, made from chemicals, sloppy and fermenting, destructive of digestion and not even a long allayer of thirst. After a little the hoodlum takes to begging pennies for this refreshment, and when he is strong enough he does not beg, he demands.

HOUSE OF REFUGE NOT A PRISON.

He has now grown to be a nuisance and a menace. Yet he is not yet a criminal. Unless society steps in and checks his vicious tendencies he will be, however, so society does its duty. It is for the like of him that it has created what it calls the House of Refuge. The superintendent of this house, Omar V. Sage, former warden of Sing Sing, refuses to speak of it as a penal institution. Its purpose is helpful and reformatory, not punitive. Its population is almost wholly of boys from the city, although it is devised for the care of bad boys from the eastern part of the whole state, the western section confining its wayward youth to the State Industrial School in Rochester.

Randall's Island is an insulated tract in the East River between Manhattan and Ward's Island, the latter containing immense asylums and hospitals. It is owned by the City of New York, while the House of Refuge itself is the property of an association, and the support of the institution falls upon the state. The schools are conducted by the educational authorities of New York City. In spite of this division of ownerships the place is managed with little friction, and there is little complaint. The system is strict, yet kindly and paternal, and Mr. Sage and the members of his family are personally liked and respected by the boys and girls who have been sequestered on the island.

It is a dreary place in winter, with the river lashed by storms against the banks and overflowing under the floors, but in summer the lawns are green and flowers grow in the yards, and tall trees give masses of shade. The main building is an ancient looking structure, really only half a century old, but grim and institution-like in aspect, topped with four little domes that appear to serve no function except that of ornament. This phalanstery is nearly a thousand feet long, and the ceilings are uncommon high in the rooms, so that the air and light are better than in almost any other correctional establishment in this land. The windows are practically continuous for three and four stories, and are not so strongly barred as are those of a prison or jail; indeed, some of those facing the inner yard are not barred at all, while the main protection is in a heavy netting of wire. These defenses against the intrusion of tramps who might swim the river and look for lodgings are of moral consequence, rather than materially important.

A stout boy with a tool filched from the smithy or a stone from the water front might cut or break his way out, if it was worth while.

EVEN WASHING HAS NO TERRORS.

It is the hopeful thing about the work of a refuge like this that so many of the inmates realize that it is not worth while. Many of them are better off than they would be in their poor substitutes for homes in the metropolis. They have few luxuries, to be sure, but they have the necessities and a few of the comforts. They also avoid whippings, whereas at home the spankings were frequent, vigorous and partly deserved. In time they grow tractable and even washing has no terrors for them. They have work to do, and they must study, but where in town is there such a big space for foot ball or base ball as there is here? And where can one be ill so pleasantly as here, and have so good looking a young woman at one's side to give broth and medicine and other needful, though abhorrent things?

And speaking of women, it is surprising to find so many of them in a place occupied so generally by boys. There are twelve matrons, a teacher in cooking, a teacher of sewing, a teacher of music, who is likewise organist, a bookkeeper and nineteen school teachers. The men employees are in the shops and trade schools, but include also a couple of assistant superintendents, a clerk and steward and watchmen. The authority of the girls who teach the usual English branches is respectfully recognized, and the behavior of the classes in the school rooms challenges comparison with that of classes in the common schools over on the mainland. There are naturally more devil faces than among an equal number of lads at liberty, but there are faces as frank and intelligent as any in the schools and streets.

At this writing there are in the House of Refuge 775 boys and 95 girls. Less than a hundred of this population are colored. During the year over 1,300 children were cared for and nearly 500 were discharged—given back to the keeping of relatives and friends. Most of the patients are foreign, or at least of foreign parentage, a recent census of children received giving 240 Russians, Irish, Italians and Germans, to 96 white and 45 colored Americans. The additions of Austrians, Bohemians, Canadians, English, French, Huns, Mexicans, Roumanians, Scotch, Swedes and other nationalities are inconsiderable. The Russians and Poles



THE
PRINTING
OFFICE



DINING
ROOM

are mostly Hebrews, who have been consigned to the place to be instructed in the views of American citizens respecting property, which views have not met their spoken approval, but which they will, none the less, respect hereafter.

Since the institution was opened in 1821, on Madison square, opposite where the Fifth Avenue Hotel now stands, nearly 30,000 children have been cared for. The Borough of Manhattan furnishes more than half of all the offenders, and most of them come from the tenement districts; yet there are well bred youth in the company who have not profited by their breeding, but have insisted on staying out o' nights and smoking rope and paper cigarettes, and consorting with evil company, and refusing to obey parental commands. Such boys are taken to court by parents or guardians and committed to the House to earn a new liberty by conforming to proper rules, or to relieve the community from a burden till they are of age.

CIGARETTES WORST OF EVILS.

Boys of 16 and over are sent to Elmira for felony and younger lads of careless morals may be sent, in accordance with family wishes, to the New York Juvenile Asylum or

For this is practically a reformatory, albeit not for very hard criminals.

the Catholic Protectory. Those who go to Randall's Island are, theoretically, a trifle too bad to mix with the population of the Asylum and Protectory, yet are disqualified by age from associating with the more experienced criminals of Elmira. The ages for reception here extend from 12 to 18, but any child can be kept till he is 21 if he does not show the proper disposition to reform. From 12 to 16 the youth are committed here for felony; from 16 to 18 for misdemeanor and disorderly conduct, such as keeping late hours, playing truant, incessantly, and cigarette smoking. The superintendent says that this latter offense is really one of the serious immoralities, for till a boy has his growth it will affect his

health and his views and way of life. One of the hardest tasks imposed on the officers is to keep the youngsters from getting tobacco.

If a boy is found with any of this pernicious weed in his pockets or his locker, he loses six weeks of his time allowance—that is, he leaves six weeks later than he would, otherwise. Tobacco is smuggled in by friends of the youngsters and occasionally some civilian employe about the place, in the over-kindness of his heart, will break off a bit of old plug or impart a cigarette to a boy who is well enough aware that he is not allowed to smoke it. Visitors to the institution ought to know in advance that for giving tobacco to any of the inmates they can be sent to the penitentiary for a year or fined \$500, or both—a punishment so grotesquely in excess of the offense that, like the ordinances against spitting in street cars, it is never enforced, as a reasonable penalty might be.

There is no association of the older and younger boys, the primary department being entirely separated from the rest of the building by a thick stone wall pierced only by a single iron door, which is always kept locked. The girls occupy a cleanly and rather pleasant division at the southern extremity of the buildings, and have their own schools, work-rooms and play grounds. It is the hope of Mr. Sage that a classification will be permitted by the managers that will enable him to entirely separate the innocent and criminal in the older classes, and the innocent and vicious in the younger. This he cannot do effectually without their aid, for it will involve architectural changes and increased



HOUSE OF
REFUGE

rooms and appliances. In the present arrangement the first division is composed of boys who are over 17 years old, the second of those whose ages extend from 14 to 17, and the third of the smallest children, from 12 to 14.

BOYS UNDER CONSTANT WATCH.

The dormitory system is here in vogue, the children sleeping in great halls that are watched all night by keepers who sit at a desk on a raised platform. To facilitate this watching the rooms are faintly lighted during the night. There is an exception to the dormitory allotment in the case of the second class, for



the unfortunates who compose this body are consigned to cells. This is not according to the wishes of the present superintendent, but he has to use the cells for the reason that they fill what would otherwise be a dormitory. They are not necessary to discipline, he says, and he hopes to be able to remove them. The objection to them is not so serious as it is in most prisons, because these cells, which form a double block in the center of one of the great halls, are well lighted. They are not hollowed out of the heavy masonry, like those in Sing Sing, but are fronted with open work of bars, are fairly spacious and quite clean. The objection to them is that they have no ventilation. Despite their open fronts, it is hard to force air into them. A brisk wind blowing through the open windows is an advantage, but there is no effective apparatus for the removal of the fouled air, and when there is no wind there is of necessity stagnation.

In appearance the dormitories do not differ from those of any hospital or barrack. They are lighted by the tall windows on both sides, reaching from floor to ceiling, and the beds are placed in long ranks, sufficiently separated, and each boy has a little locker for his clothing and effects. Many of our soldiers are not so well housed, and strict cleanliness is exacted. Every bed has a spring mattress, which is manufactured on the premises by the inmates. The look of things in these halls is really better than that of the offices, where the age and hard usage of the structure shows itself in peeling varnish, fallen plaster and dulled paint. It

is a heavy, old fashioned looking place and stands in need of various architectural changes.

The living is simple, but wholesome, and boys who have shaken their nerves by cigarettes, drink and the following of vicious examples soon find themselves restored to health. It is said that rogues have no bet-

ter restorative than a period of seclusion in a prison, for the regular hours, the plain food, the habits of order, the removal of excitements and temptations renew their digestion and power of sleep. The diet for a recent week is appended. It is eaten from metal dishes on plain tables without cloths, and every boy has enough:

FRIDAY—Breakfast: Coffee, bread, jelly. Dinner: Bean soup, bread. Supper: Bread, milk, ginger bread, stewed apricots.
 SATURDAY—Breakfast: Coffee, bread, syrup. Dinner: Bread, corned beef hash, pickled beets. Supper: Bread, milk, steamed oatmeal.
 SUNDAY—Breakfast: Coffee, bread, syrup. Dinner: Bread, baked pork and beans, pickles. Supper: Bread, milk, cookies.
 MONDAY—Breakfast: Coffee, bread, syrup. Dinner: Bread, beef stew, potatoes. Supper: Bread, milk, stewed prunes.
 TUESDAY—Breakfast: Coffee, bread, jelly. Dinner: Bread, corned beef and cabbage, potatoes. Supper: Bread, milk, ginger bread, stewed peaches.
 WEDNESDAY—Breakfast: Coffee, bread, syrup. Dinner: Bread, pea soup. Supper: Bread, milk, stewed potatoes.
 THURSDAY—Breakfast: Coffee, bread, syrup. Dinner: Bread, chicken fricassee, stewed potatoes. Supper: Milk, bread, butter, hot buns, sugar cookies.

PLAY PROMOTES BOYS' HEALTH.

Health is also promoted by play in the big yards, where it is hearty and noisy, oppressive as the walls appear, and in the play rooms, to which the inmates repair in bad weather. Military drill has likewise been introduced by Mr. Sage, who is an old guardsman, and he reports good results from it. Boys like it better than men, for it is man's work, and so confers dignity and importance on them. Moreover, they have real guns—old Springfield rifles—and can, therefore, make a better and more warlike appearance on parade than can some other inmates of institutions. In Elmira the men are still going through the infantry manual with "fake" guns of wood. It is not feasible to fire the Springfields, however, for the island is not large and there is a hospital but a little way from the home; hence, if there were target practice or volley firing, somebody would almost certainly be hurt. The exercise in marching and handling the rifles gives a good set-up to the lads and they will probably be the better for it all their lives. The gun racks are to be in a semi-circular hall, where some of them have already been placed without any special guard. So long as cartridges cannot be had for them, they would be of little service in the hands of mutineers.

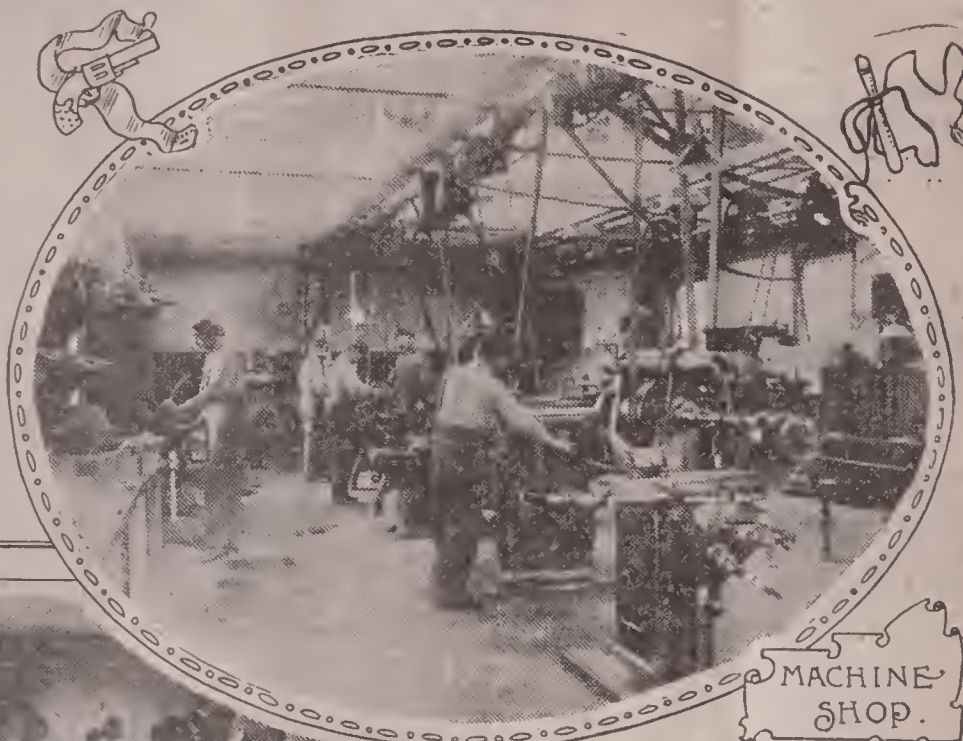
Farm and garden work is also enforced and has its effect on the health of the boys. The premises embrace thirty-seven and one-half acres, of which sixteen are covered by

procured for the purpose the sailors might sail away in it and become pirates. The ship is no longer used and remains as a curiosity. The New York Board of Education has established here one of its "centers" for free lectures and the children have a chance to listen to talks on travel, with stereopticon illustrations; on chemistry, with experiments; on literature and music, with readings and songs, and on domestic science. They make an excellent audience, larger in numbers than those in most of the "centers" in Manhattan.

HOPES BASED ON TRADE SCHOOLS.

It is in the trade instruction that the hopes are based for the reclamation of the boys who are sent here, although they are of a primary sort and are hampered

Gymnastics and singing exercises are obligatory, and if a boy has sand and strength enough, he earns a place on the base ball team, where he becomes a subject of admiration, and the fact of having a ball team that challenges schools in Westchester and that is trusted to go to the main land, unwatched, and whips them, does not a little for the morale of the institution. The toughest boys are reputed to make the best ball players. In the summer the boys bathe and frolic in East River, 150 of them at a time, and they rarely try to escape by swimming over to Manhattan. The young ones, at their singing lessons, exhibit a great spirit and heartiness—more of that, indeed, than tunefulness, for their ears lack nicety and the superintendent says that he also finds they lack a sense of humor, as a class. It is no great



buildings and lawns and a considerable portion is filled by marsh, which will one day be filled in, without doubt, but there are left for tillage eight acres, and on these it is possible to raise a considerable amount of "truck," which is put to account in the internal economy of the institution.

The division of time prescribes four hours a day for school, five for work, one and a half for drill, four and a half for meals and play, and the rest in the dormitories. Labor is remitted on Sundays and there are many recreations and devices for instructing and interesting the inmates. There is, for example, a counterfeit of a small ship on the dry land, just in front of the office. The purpose of this was to teach practical navigation to the boys, and it was feared that if a real ship were

by lack of machinery and appliances. The boys do the printing needed in the business of the place, they raise flowers and let them alone after they are raised, thus repressing the natural instinct of youth, which is to tear them out of the earth and dance on them; they do fairly well at carpentry, masonry, plumbing, painting, machine work, blacksmithing, and are devoting themselves with moderate enthusiasm to drawing, carving and modeling. The girls are instructed in sewing, cooking and household duties. What a pity it is that so many girls of the tenements have no chance to learn how to make a home comfortable until they are sent to a place like this! And it is the discomfort of the tenement home that drives so many to the streets to begin a career of evil.

wonder, for life to them has been a tragedy.

To give a smart appearance to the boys they are dressed in gray uniforms, but these garments are not often smartly worn. They are, for instructional purposes, divided into two battalions, which meet now and again in competition, and are ready to challenge any equal number of troops in the National Guard. They have a drum and fife corps, but no band, and the bugle sounds reveille and taps. A citizen major commands the corps, but the captains and lieutenants are inmates. Badges and ribbons denote scholarship and behavior, and promotion must be earned by study and good conduct. When a boy runs away ten weeks are added to his term, though he can make his account good by an exceptional earning of marks afterward. If a youngster who is allowed to go home on parole, as happens now and then, and violates his promise, he is regarded with contempt by all his class mates. For after such an elopement boys who might otherwise have been released for the holidays are kept in, and numbers, therefore, suffer. This in itself is enough to account for the disgust, but there is a moral objugation in the attitude also.

COURTESY HERE IS NOTICEABLE.

Though a judge has power to commit boys to the House of Refuge, he has no authority after they have been received. All rules are made by the board of managers, and these rules do not always meet with the views of philanthropists and penologists. One

of the latter has not hesitated to express himself to the effect that the managers are old fogies, and that the best results cannot be expected till they resign and give way to younger, more active and experienced men, to whom the conduct of a reformatory is not a side issue or an opportunity for amateur experiments. Still, the feeling that is shown toward the unfortunates is obviously generous, and as a rule the trust imposed in them is repaid. One is especially struck by the courtesy that is displayed in the yards and shops, the boys saluting and standing at attention whenever an officer appears.

While an inmate can be kept till he is of age, he can also be released whenever he shows his fitness to go back into the world, provided, however, that he has had a record of seventy-eight weeks of good conduct. It is in many ways to be regretted that association is forced upon all, for it has been found in almost every penal institution that the good seldom lift the bad, whereas the bad easily drag down the good. And yet, the sense of honor that some of the most unpromising display when trusted to go to Manhattan with money, on errands, and the fact that only two or three attempts a year are made to run off, when liberty days are given to at least 500 a year, is comforting.

Punishments consist in loss of marks, restriction to the "roost," as the boys call the upper floor, and confinement in a cell for one, two or three days, according to the gravity of the offense. There is no spanking and no starving. The health, indeed, shows that there is a judicious balance of rest, exercise and feeding. In 1900 there were only three deaths, and one of those was by murder. The boy who committed it is serving a life sentence in Sing Sing—a meek looking little fellow, too. This high health is the more curious, because most of the children come from

ill kept homes, but it shows the recuperative value of normal living, proper nourishment and fresh air. A resident physician is needed, but one calls at the house daily.

HEBREWS MAKE BEST PUPILS.

Religious services are conducted by Catholic, Protestant and Hebrew chaplains, and there is a Sunday school for members of each denomination. The Hebrews number more than they would seem to, of right, considering their usual peacefulness and their proportion to the populace of the big city, but this fact is explainable by the absence of any Hebrew institution that corresponds to the Catholic Protectory and the Juvenile Asylum. The Hebrews are among the most proficient of the scholars in the day classes, and are not as hard in appearance as some of the inmates. It is not easy to rid the boys of the idea that toughness is manliness and they cling to many of the customs and traditions of rowdy life, especially in their speech, which they interlard with a slang of their own, whereof these are specimens: "Chuck" is bread; "ginger" is gingerbread; "spud," potato; "scorf," a glut-ton; "chuck scorf," a great eater of bread; "snitch," tell tale; "up," a captain or lieutenant; "hard guy," bad boy; "cittles," shoes made in factories; "stuff," tobacco; "striker," match; "whiffing," smoking; "girk," a chewed tobacco quid, saved for smoking; "rakes," a chum; "had a fierce goat on," means was angry.

When Mr. Sage became warden at Sing Sing a convict one day dropped on his knees before him, as he was making his rounds through the place, and begged for permission to speak. He had been trying, he said, for six years to do this, and had never till then had a chance. He wanted to explain certain business matters that affected his family and that added to the burden of his ex-

istence. Mr. Sage did away with a system that permitted such a state of things as this, and he not only listened to the convicts when they had anything to say, but he placed letter boxes in various parts of the building, into which the prisoners could drop requests and complaints. He permits and encourages the writing of similar letters here, and every evening there is quite a batch of notes to read, mostly requests for a personal meeting in order to explain alleged lacks in studies or violations of rules that threaten a reduction in rank. Inmates may receive all letters from friends but they can write to them only once a month.

When the boy leaves the institution he is kept in sight for a while by its officers and agents who cause his rearrest if he goes wrong, who warn him if they see that he is slipping into evil ways, and who help him when they see that he means to do right. Not a few of the inmates enlist in the army and navy, and good reports come of them from the Philippines and elsewhere. It is guessed, rather than known, that about 75 per cent. of all discharged members of this community behave well after gaining their liberty, but the reports of some agents would indicate better than that, if it were not that some of the boys remove from New York and are therefore lost sight of. One of the visiting agents who represents the girls' department, reports that of sixty-three girls recently set free, forty-eight were doing well at last account, seven were doing indifferently well and eight were going wrong. The boys' visiting agent declares that of 286 boys he watches, 92 per cent. are behaving well, and only 8 per cent have gone back to mischief.

A record like this shows that the institution is an important factor in reform or else that young human nature, even in Manhattan, is not so bad as people had supposed it.

The Released Convict.



LIKE all else that pertains to the well being of the criminal, the matter of providing for him after he has been set free has received little attention from the people. Yet it is a thing of vital consequence. Shall he be allowed to learn

evil in a prison, come back to us worse than when he went away, and be then expected to go virtuously to work in a district that he formerly depredated? If he were always sent to a reformatory we would expect good conduct from him, but then he is not always sent there. On the contrary, he is generally sent to a prison where the inducements to better living are unimportant.

He returns to the world bleached with long confinement, blinking in the unaccustomed light, his trade forgotten or he grown rusty at it, his friends cold or repellent, if he has any. He has no money, or but a dollar or two, and he knows that if the fact of his imprisonment is discovered it will stand against him when he tries to obtain employment. He may have been living a life of isolation so long that the whole world has gone past him and he goes back into a community that does not know him, and that is surrounded by conditions he has hardly more than heard of.

One convict who left Sing Sing a while ago and who returned to New York City had never seen, till that return, an elevated railroad, nor a trolley car, nor the Brooklyn bridge, nor the Statue of Liberty; the eight story tenements were new, the asphalt streets were something to wonder at, the saloons were more gorgeous and more orderly than they had been, Broadway, instead of being a proper sort of street with stages rocking and tumbling along the length of it, was a roaring canyon with 300 foot cliffs of masonry beetling over it, and cable cars were clanging, and there were arc lights everywhere, and it was

all startling and even terrifying. This man was as an infant in a great Babylon, knowing not which way to turn nor what to do, and every convict who has served a term of several years is like him.

In some states there are shelters for discharged prisoners, where they may lie hid for a few days while friends try to get work for them; but, it is asked, If the prison is a place of evil associations is not the convict just as bad off in a shelter, among a number of other returned rascals, as he is in prison? Nay, is he not in a worse state, since the discipline is relaxed and there is freedom of communication between these jail birds, and liberty to concoct plots against the country's peace?

ALL WILLING TO TRY HONESTY.

Theoretically this may be the case, but as a matter of fact, the criminal is not anxious to hurry behind the bars again, and is willing to give a trial to honesty for awhile. Considering that he has been a criminal, his behavior after he returns to the world is not usually conspicuous for evil. If we had ideal prisons there would be little cause for anxiety regarding the people who came out of them. But our prisons are far from ideal, and if the state has to re-absorb the outcasts it ought to occur to it that in self defense the outcasts should be made fit for residence and citizenship. There are associations for the relief of convicts, and the Salvation Army has done a good deal for them, but they can not make amends for the suppression and neglect whereby the life and skill and hope of the prisoner are starved or crushed. A prison ought to be a place of encouragement. Instead of that, it is a place of discouragement. The society that tries to remedy its defects must begin at the beginning and remedy the whole system. Failing that it should, if it were able, supply to the discharged convict such knowledge and training as he did not gain in confinement. And that means a great expenditure, and there is no money to meet it. It would be absurd, indeed, if the state were asked for \$500,000 a year for schools and shelters for men whose chances in life it had destroyed.

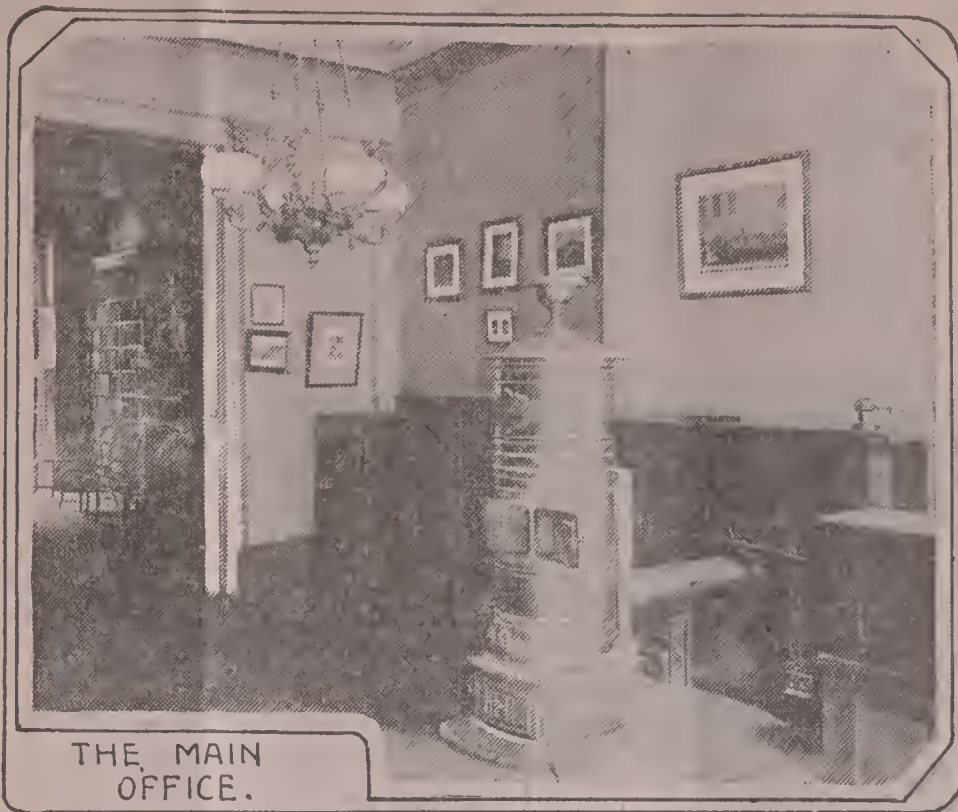
It has been objected to homes and shelters

for discharged convicts that they continue the effects and associations of the prisons, instead of leading away from them, and by offering charity to the man who should be stimulated not to ask it he is kept in his weak, dependent and sunken condition. So long as he feels that he is welcome there, or has a right to stay, he will never be willing to leave, and the longer he remains without the exercise of his own initiative, the more ineffective he becomes and the more reliable to return to crime as a means of livelihood.

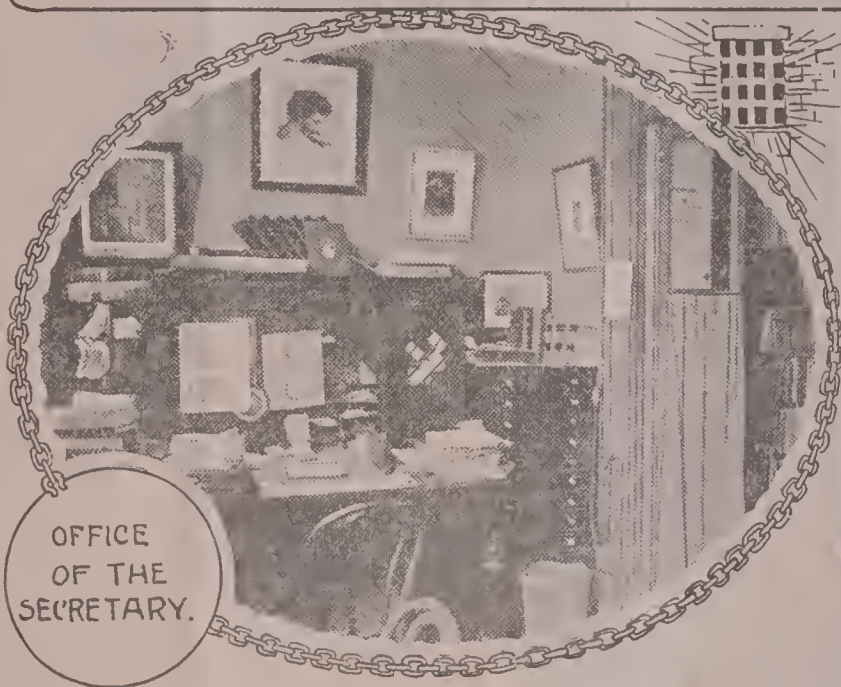
And it is hard to find men and women who take a sufficient interest in convicts to sacrifice their time and means for their welfare. Indeed, the whole matter of penology makes but a small appeal to public interest, and the indifference of the masses to prisons and reformatory methods is one of the greatest obstacles to reform, and one of the strongest intrenchments of the politician in the place that should be occupied by the student and philanthropist. Public opinion that is supposed to make laws, and that enforced the swift trial and conviction of a Czolgosz, ought likewise to enforce the sequence of the laws, both for the good fortune of the innocent and the conversion of the guilty.

PUBLIC WORKS BEST WAY OUT.

Possibly the best way out of the difficulty of providing for the discharged convict would be to establish some system of public works whereon and whereby he could be employed, immediately on his release. This would obviate the delays and trials that confront the man who, whether hard and brazen or shrinking and fearful, realizes or fancies that he has been spotted as a jailbird, and that many, even of the poorest laborers, will resent having to associate with him either at work or away from it. Yet, here again, we are confronted with the vital objection that so long as a man is employed on such a work he is as plainly under suspicion as if he were still in stripes. The belief is growing that the sooner a man gets away from all prison associations and influences the better for him. If he could lose himself in the community within five minutes from the time he leaves



THE MAIN OFFICE.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.

his cell for good—it is to be hoped, for good—his future would be best assured.

In Europe there are agencies where a discharged prisoner can call and ask for work or information, or temporary help, or the loan of tools and such matters, and in time we may have such here. As between such an agency and the saloon or the dive, where the ex-prisoner has an invitation to come and sell a vote, or meet the political boss of the ward, or a burglar or two who need help, it need hardly be said which is the most to his advantage. Another agent, who may arrive and who should arrive before, is a representative of the prison, who studies and knows his men; knows how far they can be trusted, what work they are best qualified to do, and then hunts up places for them. He must do this quietly. He must find a vacancy, and inform the employer that he has a man to fill it. The employer must know the history of his new workman, but the shopmates of the latter must not. And the agent must post the prisoner before his release, telling him where to go, what to do

and how to conduct himself. He must make the convict feel and know that he has in him a trusted and secretive friend, who will be stern with him if he finds him wavering in the right path, but who will always extend a hand to help him over its steep places and who will even look after his neglected family while he is locked up or seeking work, or will see him safely out of town if he finds or fears that his old associations will rise against him when he attempts to lead a better life.

BEGINNING OF A GOOD WORK.

There is no public concern that looks after the interests of state prisoners, but there is in the Prison Association of New York—a type of organization that has its kin in several, if not in most of the states—the beginning of an important society. It is limited in its operations, because it has no fixed fund, and must rely on individual help to carry on its excellent work. The house it occupies on East Fifteenth street is an old residence, grown rather shabby in late years,

and marked by an inconspicuous sign. Men would hardly care to be seen going into it if they burned red fire in front. Here a little company of shrewd, experienced, practical, yet sympathetic men meet the shorn and shaven delegates from the penitentiaries, prisons and reformatories, inquire into their needs and smuggle them into places. There is more work that such delegates can do than even they realize, when they regain their liberty. At first a test of some sort is put upon an applicant in order to see if he is sincere, or if he is a rounder or recidivist. If he appears to be unskilled and of the laborer class, he is put at work scrubbing floors. It is a curious fact that a "bum" will not do this work. He will shy at it and find an excuse to run away. The man who really means to earn a place or tools and clothes to resume his trade withal, will do what is asked of him.

Of course there are oddities among these



HOME OF THE PRISON REFORM ASSOCIATION.

applicants. The other day, while I was chatting with the Rev. Samuel J. Burrows, the wise and optimistic secretary of the association, a foreigner entered. It was a raw, cold day, and he was lightly dressed, but topped with a stovepipe hat. He was just from Blackwell's Island, he said, and would like

some clothing a trifle warmer than he had on, and would also be grateful for a pot hat which would suit better than a tile with his straitened circumstances. He chatted in French and Italian as well as in English, and finally obtained the needed change. He had been a teacher of languages. One day he possessed himself of a naughty photograph and showed it to somebody. That stern conservator of the people's rights, Anthony Comstock, was instant upon his trail. For this crime he had the professor sent to the peni-

back to society in January dressed in a straw hat and pajamas.

One of the properties of the association is a store room filled with clothing. Here it is possible to fit out any applicant, from the ground up, from the offerings that the charitable have made, and the shelves contain coats of many colors, hats of all sizes and diverse shapes, collars, shoes, underclothes and other necessities, all numbered and tagged according to size, and all respectable in appearance. At first the mana-

few suspicions more or less are no great matter. To them the association represents food and lodging, and if they could not find these essentials in East Fifteenth street they would go to some other place: anything, rather than work. These pretenders never get far, however. The inspector questions them and requires to see their discharge. They have lost it. Well, then, their names and numbers on the penitentiary list. They give a name and any number that occurs to them. To their surprise a number of papers are taken from a desk and looked over and their names are not on them. Hence they are dismissed in disgrace—a deeper disgrace in the eye of every honest burglar than that of having “done time on de island.” Still, a few of the examples who tell the truth about their antecedents do not act it any too well. Several of their benefactors have lost hats and overcoats.

The worthy fellow, and there are many such, always has a fair chance to secure employment. Several steamship companies, contractors and others who hire men by dozens and hundreds are always ready to listen to applicants who have the indorsement of the association. The ex-prisoners are not usually long about the office. They disappear presently, and there is a new soldier in one of the harbor forts, a new fireman in a hold of an outgoing ship, a new pick and shovel man in the tunnel workings, who is a stranger to his mates and who need not assemble them to listen to the story of his past, unless he wants to, and is proud of it.

RELUCTANT TO SEEK HELP.

There are not so many applicants for relief as might be imagined. Usually the convict is a little sensitive about his sin and its punishment, and he seeks work on his own account, or is harbored by his friends, some of whom are bad ones and lead him straight back to the devil. It is not often that more than half a dozen men are “carried” at a time by the association. Work is obtained for them as cooks, printers, cleaners and jobbers about the premises till something better and more permanent can be found for them. A contract is made with a cheap hotel for lodgings, and with a not especially ambitious restaurant for meals, and tickets for these luxuries are bestowed on the applicants. Occasionally a man is provided in this fashion for as long as six weeks, but he must be a college professor or something of that kind to justify such care.

The best men come from Elmira, and the worst from the penitentiary, for in the first case we have a sympathetic and intelligent system, devised to liberate the convict from idleness, sin and ignorance, while in the “Pen” we have a political system, the head of the establishment owing his appointment to Croker in return for being a relative, while the guards and other appointees are a common lot, some of whom are said to be drunk frequently. The prison graduate has an advantage over the man from the penitentiary in that the state gives him \$10 and a suit of pretty good clothes when he has his liberty, but the penitentiary convict has nothing, unless he has committed a felony, in which case, if he has been locked up for over a year, he will have \$5 and a suit of clothes on which some contractor has realized a few needed pennies, for they say it will last till the next shower, and after that it dissolves, leaving the alarmed and astonished owner on the sidewalk, a prey to Mr. Comstock. Are the men appreciative of what is done for them? Fairly so, yes. It is almost impossible to say how many of them give the



WHERE CONFERENCES WITH DISCHARGED PRISONERS ARE HELD



'THE LIBRARY.'

tentiary for six months. Quite possibly a day in jail would have served as a warning and example, but Mr. Comstock has no patience with sinners, though a certain reformer has made himself liable to the law he so rigidly enforces in showing his plunder to clergymen and others. The professor emerged at the expiration of his sentence, ruined, of course, and was anxious to reach Mexico or some other part of the world where he was not known, that he might begin life anew.

In another instance a West Indian came

gers were ready in their generosity and gave out small sums of money, but one of them tracked a few graduates one evening to a “three cent schooner house,” and saw them lift their tankards of chemical beer and drink a health to the “green guys” of East Fifteenth street. After that money was not distributed.

It seems extraordinary at first thought that not a few applicants for relief are men who have never seen the inside of a prison. They chance the suspicion incurred in entering the house, because they are of the sort to whom a

best proof of their appreciation by avoiding appearances of evil forever after, because they drift away to other states, or they die, or they ship as sailors and disappear in foreign lands, or they change their names and become bank presidents, or something, but it is thought that 50 per cent. of them reform. Some enthusiasts hold out for 75 per cent. And even the supposed habitual criminal may upset theories by becoming virtuous, over night, and staying that way till the end, sternly refusing all chances to throw up a good job and go back to stealing.

the parole system is experimental in New York, and does not meet the approval of all who have dealings with the criminal, but there is this advantage for the prisoner, that he is released only when he has a place. At least this is an ostensible advantage, for as a matter of fact, the agents of the association who investigate the cases of 200 Elmira graduates every year, find that some of the offers of employment are "fakes" that emanate from relatives or friends, who take this method of securing an early release for the unhappy one. In every case the man who is

influenced that are stronger than his will; and his will is seldom firm. He thinks he must come to town, regardless of the work that offers in the country, and it is in town that he is without friends, food, lodging or hope. He cheers his spirits with drink, and the kind of drink he drinks makes him vicious. He gets into a fight, or is tempted into some scrape of law breaking, and almost before he has breathing time he is renumbered, put into stripes again, and is back in his old home with the thick walls and superfluous bars. If he is of the better sort he may be "cut" by his relatives and his former friends, for he bears the stamp of the prison, if not on his body or his morals, at least on his mind. But if he is not of the better sort, as he seldom is, the friends who do not cut him would confer a great favor if they would.

"I'm 35 years old, and I've been in prison fifteen years," was the wail of one convict. "What have you learned in that time?" was asked. "Nothing," was the despondent and significant answer. Society had not taught him. His keepers had not taught him. Yet society punished him for being untaught.

The labor unions are down on sinners. They will not allow them to learn trades in prison; they will not allow prison made goods to be sold; they will not allow more than a small proportion of the prisoners to work at any one calling. And when the men come out of prison the unions clamor that they must not be permitted to find work. The logical outcome of this attitude is that the unions and other righteous people must support offenders all their lives in the idleness of prisons and almshouses, or



THE PRINTING OFFICE.

THERE'S HOPE FOR EVERY ONE.

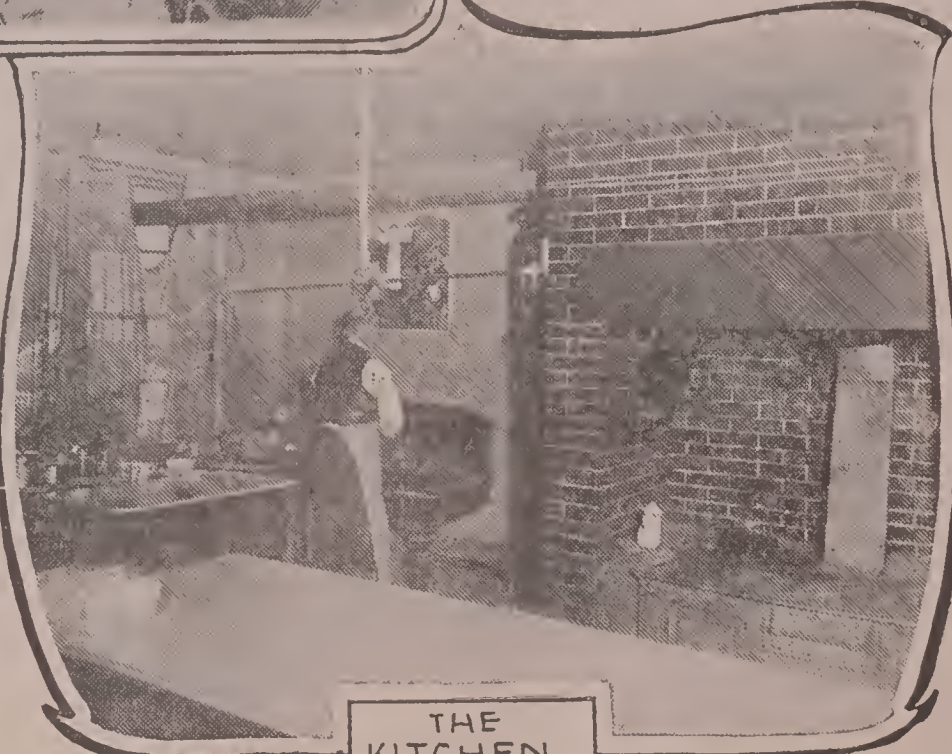
There is, for instance, an architect not a thousand miles away, who is making at least \$5,000 a year at his profession, and who is not generally known, as why, indeed, should he be, as Number blank from Clinton, where he served eight years for forgery. Then, there is a mail robber, an awful man, who served his time, hung about the rooms of the association for five months, got a place under the government he had robbed, and is now at the head of an important public department, which he serves faithfully, honestly and capably; indeed, he is a man who is not only trusted but respected for his intelligence and ingenuity. Then, what do you say to a professional pickpocket—"the slickest fellow in the business; you had to give your watch to him, whether you wanted to or not"—who is a hotel detective earning \$2 a day, never straggling from the path of rectitude, trusted with everything about the place and the terror of thieves. Yet that fellow served no less than eight terms in prison for thieving. There's hope in everything and for everybody.

In a probation case the association may be called upon to support or refute statements made by the prisoner who has been released under a suspended sentence. It is the author of the new state probation law, and has done much to perfect its workings. In paroled cases, where the prisoner has earned his release from confinement by good behavior, it co-operates with the prison authorities in securing work and exercising guardianship. Except as it applies in the reformatories,

on parole must report to the authorized agents, and if he fails to appear in person the agents seek him. Whenever a letter is received from his alleged mother or alleged employer saying that he is so busy he has no time to call, or is too ill to leave the house, the agent smells the falsehood, and makes up his mind that the offender is back in his old ways or is serving a new sentence in jail or the penitentiary.

Still, the reformatory man has an advantage over the late issue from Sing Sing, who, except for his \$10 and his unshrinking clothes, arrives in town a prey to the first

else drive them to jump into the nearest river, which is not Christian and not kind. In Switzerland, where they do many things better than we do, the man who exposes and persecutes another for having been a convict breaks a law and may become a convict himself, to see how he likes it. I have worked in the same shop with ex-convicts and have found them to be the equals of their mates in intelligence and behavior. Until I could be sure that my own record was clear, and thereby enjoy a luxury that is denied to most of us, I could not feel that aversion that



THE KITCHEN.

is principally affected by those who know them least.

By its charter the Prison Association of New York is permitted to erect and carry on a workhouse for released convicts, but it has not deemed it wise to act on this provision. It would tend to keep rounders hanging about the place beseeching charity, and make them careless about looking for work elsewhere. It would also tend to bring them into their own society, which is unwise. Women convicts have the care of a company of women who carry on their work as quietly as possible, but in spite of the moral superiority of women to men, it has been found that they are more weak of will and more easily lapse into vice, while their congregation into shelters and homes merely transfers them from cells to rooms, and when they are together their influence on one another, especially that of the older and more depraved on the younger, is unfortunate. According to one magistrate, they lie ninety-nine times as easily as men; hence it is less easy to arrive at a knowledge of their status and easier to mistrust them.

The man who applies to the association for help seldom lies. He knows it to be of little use. And he is generally willing to be square. He does enough work to pay for the tools, or to hold his claim on them, when work as a mechanic is provided for him, and he is anxious to escape from the world's ken. It is only the professional criminal, the man who deliberately chooses theft as a means of living, who is arrogant or revengeful. One such defiantly said to an agent, who, after the custom, visited him in prison just before his release, to inquire about his family and prospects, "Yes, I can get work outside, but I won't take it. What do they give me? A dollar and a half a day. I'll steal first." That is the kind of fellow that a more advanced society may permanently seclude from its advantages and

deliberations, yet when that kind of man is a political boss, how tamely we put up with him!

FEW SHOW BITTERNESS.

Regarding the mental attitude of the prisoner, it is surprising that so few of them show bitterness. Mr. Barrow says: "In Sing Sing forty-eight in fifty of the men confess that they are justly punished. I find little of a revengeful attitude toward society, and even the judges and prosecuting attorneys are looked upon as necessary parts of the legal machinery, who act without prejudice. Sometimes, however, you will find that some one person has aroused a convict's enmity, and there are threats of retaliation; but usually it is a witness for the prosecution, or the complainant, and not the officers of the law, who are held in such dislike." And when a complainant shows uncharity, do you wholly blame the convict that he feels a little more than sorry and a little mad? Here, for example, is a lad of 19, who has been serving a half year sentence for appropriating \$5 from his employer. He yielded to a sudden temptation and was afterward sorry and ashamed. He would have paid the money back and possibly will do so yet. But the punishment was disproportionate. This was a case for the probation officer, not for a jury. His six months in the penitentiary were months of greater heaviness because he never heard in that time from his relatives and supposed that they had refused to have anything farther to do with him, though it happened merely that they had supposed themselves barred from seeing or writing to him in prison. In another case where a weak brother had been released his landlady received him back without a question and offered to board him for three weeks on credit.

Friendly visits are made from time to time by officers of the association to men

who have reformed, to befriend and encourage them. One day an ex-convict drove to the office in his carriage and said that the association had helped him. Now he wanted to pay out some of the money he had honestly earned in befriending some one else.

It is not to the credit of this country that so little is done to help the convict who wants to lead a better life, and that so much is done by men hoggish of their privileges to keep him down in the life wherein he finds himself. The cowardice of American officials in dealing with questions that are likely to bring them in conflict with organized labor and their indifference to the opinions of that far larger class that represents unorganized labor is a bar to progress in prison management. It prevents the proper employment and training and teaching of prisoners and disqualifies them for useful life after release. There is a little broader spirit in Europe, and it has been found by Mr. Barrows that where work is active for the betterment of discharged convicts there are fewer recommitments to prison; hence, a lighter burden for the taxpayer to bear; that where relief associations exist there is a better prison management and more active preventive measures; that the tendency of an association is to liberalize public sentiment and that of the various methods none promises better than the Swiss, in which every discharged convict, who is not an habitual criminal, may have a patron who shall be to him a guardian and friend.

Some day we shall not unlikely seclude or exile the incurable offenders—there are not many of them—and to the others we may, with a good grace, extend a helping hand, realizing that, in spite of their faults, which are often exaggerated, they are men and brothers.

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